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THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

REPUBLICAN institutions are passing through a fresh crisis in France, but for the present, at least, it may be hoped that all danger is passed, and that a form of Government which, as M. Thiers said, "divides the French nation least," has been established on a more stable equilibrium. The principal peril of the Republic, and that to which self-seeking adventurers, Imperial or Royal, look with most hope, is of course the risk that the peasant proprietors, who always hold the balance of power, may be alarmed by extreme Radical tendencies affecting, or appearing to affect, the security of property. Of the two changes that have been effected—the transference of the supreme executive power from Marshal MacMahon to M. Grévy, and the succession of M. Gambetta to the latter as President of the Chamber—neither is likely to be viewed with the slightest suspicion by the thrifty holders of agricultural land or national funds. The third change, the formation of a new Ministry, not yet completed at the present time of writing, suggests possibly more elements of danger; but if M. Waddington succeeds, which appears doubtful, it is scarcely possible that revolutionary elements should hold any threatening place in the Cabinet. Marshal MacMahon's want of hearty sympathy with Republican institutions made a succession of petty crises inevitable so long as he held the reins of power. He has proved himself, indeed, both unselfish and loyal. His surrender of his incongruous position has secured permanent respect for his name, at least so far as concerns the moral qualities it represents. But he was unable frankly to accept the subordination of the army to the representatives of the people. He considered that faithfulness to old friends and to the interests of order required him to resist Parliamentary meddling with the command of troops. Under these circumstances the Constitution was kept in a state of perpetual strain, and there was a continual danger of collisions between the executive and legislative powers which the nervous constitution of the French Republic is hardly so well fitted to bear as the more robust Commonwealth across the Atlantic. Even the limited and narrow shrewdness of the French peasant could perceive that this way of maintaining order must necessarily favour the designs of politicians who fish in troubled waters. The recent elections proved triumphantly that the confidence of the nation in the Republic has grown instead of diminishing. When, therefore, the late President felt himself unable to dismiss military commanders notoriously suspicious of the Republic, he very wisely came to the conclusion, manifestly endorsed by the nation, that his only honourable course was to resign.

The previous history of M. Grévy, and the quiet confidence inspired by his name, marked him out clearly as the man demanded by the hour. Born, like M. Thiers, at a remote distance from the capital, and favoured by no patronage in his upward career, he has made his way by a fine combination of qualities that ensure respect and confidence rather than admiring idolatry. Like many other Frenchmen of eminence, he received a baptism of fire, if not of blood, on the barricades. After the flight of Louis Philippe, and during the reconstitution of the Republic, he lifted almost a solitary voice of warning against the dangers that would infallibly attend the election by universal suffrage of a president independent of the people's representatives. For a while M. Grévy shared the fate of other opponents of Imperialism, and when released from prison he refused the oath of allegiance to the upstart Napoleon. He declined to regard it as a mere form, to be accepted as a necessity, and cast aside when opportunity served. The apparently permanent submission of the nation to its Imperial idol afterwards induced him to change his purpose, and give in his allegiance to a Government demanded by his fellow-countrymen. But, different from most of them, he would not see that adversity and defeat released him from his oath to a conquered pretender. It was therefore not until the new revolution was irrevocably accomplished that he took part again in the political life of his country. His conduct as President of the Chamber has been distinguished by loyalty, firmness, and dignity, and of his elevation to the Presidency it may be said, as of the Republic, that it is the one appointment which would divide the nation least.

M. Gambetta's acceptance of the post vacated by M. Grévy has occasioned some surprise. But we are too much in the habit of judging foreign nations by the customs of our own political life. The chief of the Cabinet in France scarcely holds a position like that of the Premier in England. In the hands of the latter are held the springs of all lawful power, whether legislative or executive. He may quicken the pulses of national life and become the regenerator of his country, or, by humouring its weakness, he may play the part of a dictator for purposes of vain glory. Such is not the position of the Premier in France. The President retains substantial powers which have never yet been exercised solely and implicitly acco rding to the advice of the Ministry. Between the position of the most powerful subject in a Constitutional kingdom and that of second or third citizen in the French Republic, there is a very great difference. And perhaps it ought to occasion no wonder that a man of M. Gambetta's extraordinary powers and legitimate ambition should look upon the latter place with comparative indifference. On the other hand, the Presidency of the French Chamber, though certainly not superior in dignity to the office of Speaker in the House of Commons, offers a much better vantage ground for a politician. The President of the Chamber is not expected to divest himself wholly of party leanings. His appointment is a party triumph, and is expected to result in substantial political advantages to his friends. Besides, the succession of the same steps of preferment in two conspicuous instances would seem to suggest that the President of the Republic may again be looked for in the chair of the Chamber. M. Gambetta himself would certainly not have looked with approval on any attempt to nominate him for the higher position at present. But M. Grévy is a much older man; and besides, the approaching revision of the Constitution may afford another opportunity for realising an honourable ambition. As we have said, there is nothing in either of these appointments to awaken the susceptibilities of Conservative peasants. But if in the unreserved acknowledgment of the national sovereignty the Extreme Left should see their opportunity, and if in any intemperate proposal of theirs the little owners of land or the comfortable *bourgeoisie* should catch a glimpse of the red spectre, security would be at an end. Royalist intrigue, Imperialist conspiracy, Communist sedition, would break in upon the healthful repose at present enjoyed, and a new explosion would be added to the volcanic history of modern France.

THE PROPOSED REVERSAL OF THE IRISH CHURCH SETTLEMENT.

WE must almost apologise for returning to the question of the Irish Roman Catholic University. According to various reports—one of which we noticed last week—the negotiations between the Government and the Popish hierarchy have broken down. Nevertheless the Irish newspapers continue to discuss the subject as one of pressing practical importance, and ingenious writers rack their brains to discover schemes by which the Roman Catholic prelates may be enabled to secure what they have set their hearts upon—a direct or indirect endowment out of public property of their languishing University on College Green. Lord Beaconsfield, we are told by the *Globe*, will "crown the splendid edifice of his political reputation if he supplements the salvation of the East by the pacification of Ireland." There may be two opinions upon the monstrous assumption that the East has been saved, or that Ireland needs to be pacified. But the belief that the Prime Minister is meditating some Irish *coup de théâtre* is probably well-founded. It may take the shape of a prospective alienation of the Irish Church surplus for denominational purposes, or it may resolve itself into the fanciful project of installing a royal prince as Viceroy of Ireland.

The difficulty of believing that the educational nostrum has been abandoned is the general conviction that the Irish Intermediate Education Act of last session was intended as the precursor of an analogous measure for settling the Irish University question, and that the protracted negotiations which have been entered upon will be permitted to be entirely abortive. The Dublin papers continue to discuss the subject as though it were still one of immediate interest. Mr. O'Shaughnessy, M.P., tells his co-religionists that the scheme of a University Board would be highly serviceable from their point of view—for the only affiliated college of importance for the present would be the Roman Catholic University; and although the governing body must be composed of persons of different religious views, they would not be likely to oppose the appointment of "an adequately paid staff of professors to fill the chairs of the college." "But," reasonably asks the *Freeman's Journal*, "why not endow the Catholic University at once, instead of making it a kind of inferior Queen's University?" The *Nation* also labours to show that the proposal attributed to the Government of payment by results would be unworkable, and would raise inconvenient

questions at every turn; and our Dublin contemporary objects to the condition that the new University should be subject to independent inspection by Government officers, and thinks that such a system "would imply in its mere conception a distrust of Catholics which they may not unreasonably resent until they find it extended to every other University, and would involve in its action difficulties which might be found insuperable." And so on. We quote these remarks in order to show—first, that the actual suggestions thrown out on semi-official authority meet with great opposition in their present form from those papers which reflect the opinions of the Romish hierarchy and priesthood; secondly, that there is an eager desire on both sides to light upon some compromise which would somehow and substantially concede the Catholic claims; and thirdly, that the entire failure of the Government would entail serious, if not disastrous, consequences upon the Conservative party.

In little more than a week the curtain will be lifted, and we may then know whether or not Lord Beaconsfield has devised a means of solving a problem—created by the priests, and not by the people—which Mr. Gladstone found to be insoluble. Both the Government and the Opposition may rest assured that the Liberals and Nonconformists of Great Britain will demand to have a voice in the settlement should the question, which is essential Imperial in its bearings, come to the front. They have abundantly proved during the last half-century that no religious differences have been allowed to interfere with their desire to do justice to their Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen, and that their demand for religious freedom and equality has recognised no exceptions. But if the occasion should arise they will ask with all earnestness why the settlement of 1869, which placed all religious bodies in Ireland on an independent footing, and severed, once for all it was thought, the connection between the State and Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics alike, should be violated—why the latter, who were so instrumental in despoiling the Irish Church, are now entitled to receive out of its surplus, grants or endowments which they value only as a means of denominational advancement—and why the British nation is at this time of day to be called upon to sanction a policy based on the abandoned principle that Romish ecclesiastics, the tools of the Vatican, are the true representatives of the Irish laity, and should be invested by the State with increased facilities for subjecting them to priestly authority in education as well as in religion.

PROFESSOR FAWCETT ON INDIAN FINANCE.

MR. FAWCETT'S criticism of the financial condition of India in the new number of the *Nineteenth Century* is a much more formidable indictment than Mr. Hyndman's article. The latter, as we said at the time of its appearance, made out a very strong case. But it was open to the reply that it dealt with estimates and assumptions rather than with acknowledged facts and authoritative figures. Mr. Fawcett is not so vulnerable. He lays before his readers "an official statement of the ordinary revenue and expenditure for the year 1876-7, the last year for which the official figures have been arrived at." And though he classifies the items in his own way, there is no manipulation of the figures. The totals are, of course, unaffected by the arrangement. The first thing that strikes us on looking at the statement is a point to which Mr. Fawcett calls special attention; and that is the very large difference between the gross receipts and the nett revenue remaining after expenses of collection are paid. The former amount to 50,399,411*l.*; the latter shows only 37,417,569*l.* The difference is very nearly thirteen millions, and at first sight this seems a very disproportionate cost for collection. In England, where the revenue is very much larger, the cost of collection is not more than from ten to eleven millions. Of course the extent of territory and comparative difficulty of communication in India would partly account for the difference. But even a more important consideration is the fact that several items in the gross revenue represent only reductions of loss on necessary operations of the Indian Government. Thus we have a little more than half a million representing the "gain by exchange on transactions with London." But on the other side of the account we have over two millions as the loss on similar transactions. Both the Post Office and the Telegraph, again, are losing concerns, although, of course, the receipts from these sources appear on the side of revenue. Such items as these Mr. Fawcett has classified together as belonging to outlay rather than to revenue. And though, as a matter of account keeping, there is no fault to be found with their appearance under the head of revenue, yet they form a very serious objection to the habit of quoting the gross instead of the nett receipts as the available revenue of the Indian Government.

It was stated by Mr. Stanhope, during last session in the House of Commons, that the Indian revenue has been rapidly increasing, and that for the current year it was estimated at 63,000,000*l.* The actual returns, however, have not yet been furnished. And it is more than probable that this gross total, even if correct, represents scarcely any substantial increase in nett receipts. At any rate, Sir John Strachey, who ought to know something about it, stated some twelve months ago that the ordinary expenditure of India is between 37,000,000*l.* and 38,000,000*l.*; and that the ordinary revenue is only just sufficient to meet it. Now, when it is remembered that the usual expenditure on the army alone is 17,000,000*l.* it will be obvious that it makes all the difference in the world whether we are in the habit of quoting the gross or the nett revenue as the income at the disposal of the Government. For, as Mr. Fawcett puts it, "such an expenditure would be sufficiently serious if it were defrayed out of a revenue which was, as the Indian revenue has been represented to be, rapidly increasing from 56,000,000*l.* to 63,000,000*l.*; but how incalculably more serious must such an expenditure be, and how much more likely is it that retrenchment will be demanded as an imperative necessity, when it appears that this enormous charge of 17,000,000*l.* a year has to be met, not out of an increasing revenue of 63,000,000*l.*, but out of an almost stationary revenue of less than 38,000,000*l.*" It is almost impossible to over-estimate the importance of this distinction in dealing with Indian finance, and if this one point could be brought home to the constituencies in England it might awake many serious thoughts as to our responsibility for the future of our great dependency.

It is certain that the new frontier policy must necessarily entail not merely present burdens, but a permanently larger expenditure on the army. Now, where is the money to come from? If British taxpayers are willing themselves to defray the expense of Afghan butchery, they are, we suppose, rich enough to bear it. But if they want to make India pay, new modes of extorting revenue will have to be invented, and all who have any practical experience of the country look upon such a prospect with the gravest apprehensions. By a comparison of the returns for the ten years from 1867 to 1877, Mr. Fawcett shows that all the principal items of revenue are practically stationary. The land-tax, the largest figure of all, cannot be increased, partly because it is settled for long periods, partly because the cultivators can pay no more. The opium revenue—with shame be it mentioned—exhibits a slight decline, caused, it is believed, by the increased cultivation of the drug in China. The salt-tax is at a standstill, unless the recent cruel extortion of forty per cent. additional should prove more profitable than seems likely. In fact, India is an exhausted pump, and there is no use in working the handle, for there is nothing more to come. Under these circumstances, it is high time the conscience of this nation were aroused to a sense of its guilt in the sight of heaven for its neglect of the two hundred millions of human beings over whom it has assumed dominion. It is of no avail to lay the blame on this Ministry or that. After all, even under Imperialism, Governments are the creatures of the popular breath. And if poor wretches, yet weak through famine, have to pay a licence tax of fivepence in the pound on incomes of four shillings a week; if shipping labourers in Calcutta and other Indian ports, desperate at the cost of a necessary of life taxed 2,000 per cent., will run the risk of severe punishment to snatch a handful of salt; if brooding misery is always yearning for rebellion, and threatening a catastrophe scarcely paralleled in history, it is not second-rate novelists turned into pinchbeck statesmen who are alone to blame. The guilt now rests, where the suffering in the long run will come home, with the British voter, who will not give a thought to the enormous territory it is his boast to rule.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNTIES.

THE easy victory of the Government in two recent county elections has naturally been the cause of great jubilation amongst their supporters, and they are not likely in the flush of triumph to listen to any depreciation of its value. Nevertheless there are reasons enough, if they could but see them, why they should moderate their rejoicing, and seriously consider whether they have so very much to congratulate themselves upon after all. No one pays much regard to the easy walk-over of the Conservatives in Cambridgeshire, though the abstention of the Liberals from opposition to so weak a candidate as Mr. Hicks seems to show a strong conviction on their part that Cambridgeshire is a very hopeless constituency for them to contest. Mr. Hicks is not likely to add to the strength of his party in the county, as he is opposed to nearly every reform that the tenant-farmers ask for, and it is hardly possible to suppose that he will retain his seat at the next general election. As to North Norfolk, so far as the victory there was not due to Yarmouth corruption, it was the work of Mr. C. S. Read. It is obvious that the Yarmouth vote counts for nothing as showing the feeling of the county constituencies, while the astonishing conduct of Mr. Read has already caused estrangement between him and some of his most influential allies amongst the agricultural party. If a majority of the Norfolk farmers voted for Mr. Birkbeck, which has been questioned, it is certain that a large proportion of them did so under the influence of Mr. Read's advice, which carries great weight amongst the farmers everywhere, and especially in Norfolk. But Mr. Read undoubtedly overshot the mark in his unquestioning adherence to his party at the cost of his agricultural predilections. He helped to carry a man into Parliament who made no promise to advocate any of the measures which Mr. Read and the farmers generally have asked for, except the reform of local government; and Mr. Birkbeck is so strong a Conservative that he is not at all likely to go to a satisfactory length even upon that question.

In taking this course, Mr. Read laid himself open to the charge, which has already been made in the agricultural press against him, of having virtually deserted his friends for the sake of his party. He will no doubt defend himself, as he did against Mr. Forster's well-directed taunts, by declaring his strong conviction that the farmers are more likely to get their grievances redressed by a Conservative than by a Liberal Government, but no one knows better than he that the old practice of taking candidates on trust, simply because they were supporters of the professed "farmer's friends," has been most disastrous to the interests of his clients. He must know that, even if it is best, as he thinks, for farmers to choose Conservative representatives, they should choose such as will pledge themselves to advocate at least a few of the important agricultural reforms which they have so long demanded in vain. He virtually admitted, in his reply to Mr. Forster, that up to the present time his friends have got very little satisfac-

tory legislation from his party. He has confessed his disappointment time after time at the mere shams which have been offered to the farmers in response to their pleas for substantial relief from the disabilities and abuses which press so heavily upon them. Yet at an election in which his influence was a very considerable factor, he set the bad example of supporting a candidate who gave no satisfactory promises either to him or to his agricultural fellow-voters, and thus helped to keep up the old system under which farmers have notoriously been more thoroughly misrepresented in Parliament than any other class of the community. If such conduct does not produce a reaction against the party which Mr. Read so zealously attempted to serve, the farmers have even less spirit than the little that they are generally credited with. There is at least a small body of active and determined farmers scattered throughout the agricultural constituencies, and these, and their representatives in the press, will hold up the North Norfolk election as a flagrant instance of the manner in which an election should not be allowed to be conducted. Mr. Read will lose influence amongst his hitherto almost unanimous supporters; and it may be that a party of advanced farmers will choose a more spirited and independent leader.

If such results should follow, the Conservative party will have no cause to regard the result of the North Norfolk election with satisfaction. Mr. Forster's bid for the farmers' support on behalf of Sir T. Fowell Buxton—who, by the bye, would undoubtedly have been a better farmers' representative than Mr. Birkbeck is—and recent leading articles in two of the Liberal daily papers, have given rise to the supposition that there is a growing disposition amongst the Liberal party to do something to gain the support of county voters, whom, it must be confessed, they have lately taken no pains to conciliate. The contest over the Cattle Diseases Bill was needlessly embittered by the persistency with which Mr. Forster and some of his friends taunted the farmers with secretly harbouring Protectionist designs, in spite of their repeated and indignant denials. Considering that there were many earnest Free Traders on the farmers' side in their dispute, it was an unwarrantable imputation to insinuate that what was asked for on the ground of protection from disease was really desired on that of protection from competition. We might go further back in political retrospect, and notice the strong bias which Mr. Lowe exhibited when he proposed to tax farmers' horses, and curtly replied to some deputations which waited upon him in relation to other questions of agricultural interest. Or we might remark upon the strong opposition which the Whig landowners offered to the Agricultural Holdings Act, before it was quite such a sham as it was ultimately made. Such detail, however, is needless, as it is notorious that agricultural reforms, which true Liberals might have been expected to support, have received no impetus from the Liberal party in Parliament. Nevertheless, it is highly improbable, as Mr. Forster told the Norfolk farmers, that the Conservative Government will ever carry out the most important of the reforms asked for by the tenants, simply because they are so strongly opposed by the landlords. At least, they will not do this unless by way of "stealing the clothes" of the Liberals, as they have done before, and may possibly do again. The most influential members of the Conservative party, however, would require a very imperative "education" before they would be schooled to give up their cherished privileges in relation to land tenure and game.

The advanced Liberals are really the men most in sympathy with those fundamental remedies for agricultural depression which the tenant-farmers—or at least a considerable and influential section of them—ask for at the hands of the Legislature. These two parties are at variance upon the question of cattle disease prevention, and there is some difference between them with respect to the incidence of local taxation; but on such great questions as the enfranchisement of the land from the deadlock of entail and settlement, the simplification of land transfer, tenant right, the abolition of the laws of distress and hypothec, and the reform of the game laws, they are at one. There is great distress amongst farmers at the present time; and if, as is rather probable than otherwise, their position becomes worse before it is better, they will look with an earnestness which they have not felt for the past forty years to some means of permanent relief from their difficulties. There never was a time, then, when there was a better chance of the Liberal party obtaining support in the counties than there is just now, if they will but come forward boldly with a programme of land and agricultural reform. The measures that are wanted are such as would benefit not only the agricultural interest, but the nation at large, and a genuine effort to carry them as the declared policy of the Liberal party would be worthy of, and likely to call forth, the enthusiasm of a great majority of their supporters.

THE ZULU WAR.

England has now embarked in another "little war." On January 13 the British troops, under the command of Lord Chelmsford, crossed the Tugela river — which separates Natal from Zululand—and entered the country which is ruled by the Zulu king, better known as Cetewayo. The forces which crossed the river are thirteen thousand strong, including native levies. They are described as being extremely anxious to fight, and one writer declares that the young officers would have been sorely disappointed if Cetewayo, by accepting Sir Bartle Frere's ultimatum, had deprived them of the opportunity of measuring swords with the Zulus. This, no doubt, is a very professional sentiment, but we think that it reflects little credit upon the nation that its affairs should be so largely in the hands of men who engage in war with a light heart, and appear to be completely indifferent to the cruelty and misery which are inseparable from it. These young officers need never have had the least apprehension that they would be cheated of the gratification which they were so eager to enjoy. So far as we can judge, it has been intended for nearly a year past that war should be waged against Cetewayo. The two pamphlets on the Zulu army which many months ago were issued from the Intelligence Department of the War Office, were written upon this assumption. The reinforcements sent to Natal from England, together with the extensive preparations of a warlike character which have been made both in that colony and in the Transvaal, showed a predetermination on the part of the authorities to break the power of the Zulu nation.

But Sir Bartle Frere's own conduct in this unhappy business is the best proof that a peaceful solution of the difficulty was far from the thoughts of the one man who had the issues of peace or war in his own hands. Writing to Sir Henry Bulwer, Lieutenant-Governor of Natal, on January 26, 1878, while expressing his opinion that there should be an inquiry into the Zulu claim to the disputed territory, he says: — "Even if immediate hostilities be averted, our position must, I fear, long continue to be one of armed observation, ready to defend ourselves against *further* aggression." This shows what was passing in the High Commissioner's mind a year ago. He says that we must be ready to defend ourselves against "further aggression." We hope that the attention of Parliament will be called to the misleading character of this language. It implies that the Zulus had already been guilty of aggressive conduct towards us: whereas in the whole course of our relations with them, down to the very moment at which Sir Bartle Frere wrote his despatch, they had never committed a single act of aggression against the British Government. Indeed, it was the boast of the native department in Natal that, by the sole exercise of moral influence, it had succeeded not only in preserving peace on the Zulu frontier, but in inducing the Zulus to abstain from taking up arms against the Boers even in defence of their rights. But Sir Bartle Frere, deliberately ignoring the experience of thirty years, clearly thinks that it will be necessary to fight the Zulus. It is quite possible that he too readily assumed that, on the subject of the disputed boundary, the Zulus were in the wrong, especially as on January 2, 1878, Sir T. Shepstone, who, when Secretary for Native Affairs in Natal, supported the Zulu claim, had, in his capacity of administrator of the Transvaal, declared that the right of the Boers to the existing boundary had been established "by evidence the most incontrovertible, overwhelming, and clear." In February a commission was appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the respective claims to the territory in dispute; and a thoroughly competent body of commissioners was chosen, consisting of the Attorney-General of Natal, the Acting-Secretary for Native Affairs, and Colonel Durnford, of the Royal Engineers. As our readers are aware, this commission, after taking evidence at Rorke's Drift on the Buffalo River, came to a conclusion diametrically opposite to that formed by Sir T. Shepstone and also probably by Sir B. Frere. They decided that the territory more particularly in dispute, which lies to the south of the Pongola river, belonged to the Zulus, and had been improperly taken from them by the Boers. We shall be curious to know at what date they made their report to Sir Bartle Frere? And how long an interval elapsed between that date and the promulgation by Sir H. Bulwer of the award which the High Commissioner based upon the Commissioners' Report? There was no other question in dispute between ourselves and the Zulus than that of the disputed territory, and we should therefore have expected that the High Commissioner would be anxious to lose no time in putting an end to a difficulty which was the chief, if not the only, cause of the disturbed condition of the frontier. But there has been great delay in this matter, and, as we have seen, that delay was ominously employed to bring to Natal several regiments of troops, to raise numerous native levies, and to organise among the Boers volunteers who are to be allowed to fight in their own fashion, and to divide among themselves the spoil which they may capture from the Zulus.

Having regard to Sir Bartle Frere's antecedents and professions, we should have expected him to display towards the Zulus a just and magnanimous feeling, and at all events to show an earnest desire to preserve the peace which had so long continued unbroken between us and them. Instead of doing this, he practically gives back to the Boers the very land which he, acting upon the terms of the report of his own commissioners, is compelled to award to the Zulus. Our readers must not suppose that this land is worth very little. On the contrary, it is of exceptional fertility, while its value for purposes of settlement is greatly enhanced by the fact that, in this part of the country, spring sets in several weeks earlier than in the adjacent territories. The Transvaal Government was so alive to the great value of this tract that they disposed of the major portion of it to Dutch farmers, among whom it was parcelled out although it was never actually surveyed. Consequently it is doubtful whether Cetewayo could establish a single kraal in the territory without running the risk of at once coming into collision with the settlers. It, therefore, appears to us that Sir Bartle Frere, in requiring the Zulus to surrender their land, without compensation, to the Boers who are already settled upon it, is not acting with that good faith which the representative of the British Government should always exhibit to every nation, whether civilised or uncivilised. It appears to us that if the High Commissioner had acted justly to the Zulus in this matter, he might subsequently, with great propriety, have asked Cetewayo to give to the British Government a proof of his pacific disposition by disbanding his army and reforming his military system. But the course actually pursued justifies the suspicion that the High Commissioner was determined at all costs to reduce Cetewayo to the position of a feudal

chief, whose government should be administered under the supervision of a British Resident.

The expense of these military operations will be no light matter. Even if Lord Chelmsford is able to effect Cetewayo's subjugation with little difficulty or delay, the British public will be called upon to pay a heavy bill for preliminary expenses extending over a period of many months, and embracing costly items of ammunition, transport, and commissariat. We feel sure that so long as John Bull is prepared to pay these bills, so long will little wars break out in South Africa from time to time. When the home Government withdrew the Imperial troops from New Zealand the long series of Maori wars which had perplexed successive Colonial Secretaries and Chancellors of the Exchequer came to a natural termination, and ever since both colonists and natives have lived together on terms of mutual respect and forbearance. If Imperial troops had not been sent out to South Africa, and the colonists had been compelled to fight their own battles, or not to fight at all, they would certainly have found a way of keeping peace with Cetewayo. It is, we fear, too much to expect that the present House of Commons will take this view of the matter, but we hope that at the next general election the constituencies will exact from candidates a definite pledge that they will not allow any more of their money to be spent in Kaffir or Zulu wars.

THE *CHURCH TIMES* AND CHURCH EXTENSION—A REPLY.

There are two different methods of promoting "Church extension." The one consists in the increase of provision for public worship and the multiplication of Christianising agencies within the Establishment. This, so long as it results from the intelligent exercise of religious zeal, and not from sectarian bigotry, no one can do other than commend, founded as it mostly is upon the practice of pure voluntaryism. The Church has no better means than this of commending itself to the sympathy and forbearance of the nation which it partly represents. But, on this very account, indiscreet partisans of the Church as an Establishment are liable unduly to magnify the progress of the extension which is going on. Their method of "Church extension" is shown in the practice of that species of ecclesiastical arithmetic, which may be said to consist in showing how two and two make, not four, but five or six. Without imputing any conscious intention to misrepresent facts, there seems to exist somehow in certain ecclesiastical minds an amazing faculty for showing that things which are *not* equal to the same thing are equal to one another. When the object thus sought is, in the words of the *Church Times*, "to impress upon our friends what a goodly inheritance they have in the Church of England, and to warn them against the wickedness and folly there would be in thinking scorn of that pleasant land," the imaginative treatment of statistics appears to be regarded, not as a serious business, but as a piece of harmless pleasantry.

A leading article in the *Church Times* of January 31, pre-eminently illustrative of this second or *statistical* method of Church extension, has suggested these observations. The article in question was written with reference to an article in our issue of January 22, entitled, "Statistical Romancing," and its object is to reaffirm the claim of the Established Church to a provision for public worship of at least 7,000,000 sittings. Now, we have no desire to rob the Established Church of any credit resulting from progress which may justly be her due. Independently of moral considerations, to do so would be very bad policy. On the other hand, we cannot permit the grotesque numerical statements concerning the progress of the Established Church, with which our contemporary supplies his readers, to pass without challenge and exposure.

The *Church Times* professes to have discovered with real pleasure that our article in question "is pervaded by a spirit of such genuine wonderment at the idea of imputing fallibility to Mr. Horace Mann's report," that he now feels quite certain of our *bona fides*. Perhaps we might feel at a loss for a suitable acknowledgment of such a sentiment, if it were not so well fitted to draw his readers off from the true scent. Our contemporary affects to forget that, in respect to that portion of the census of 1851 upon which he especially founds his claim for an exaggerated rate of progress on the part of the Established Church, we devoted a whole paragraph to illustrate what Mr. Mann himself points out, that "the table must *not* be taken to show with strict exactness the real number of churches built in each decennial period," and hence would not warrant the conclusion of the *Church Times*. But of course it was much easier to ignore this reasoning by using an expression which, we suppose, was intended to be complimentary, than it was to reply to the argument. Hence it suited his purpose to assume unqualified acquiescence on our part in all the statements of Mr. Mann's report, and so get over the difficulty.

After this promising beginning, the *Church Times* recapitulates certain statements respecting the growth of Church accommodation during the last twenty-seven years, which it ascribes to Mr. Mabbs, and in doing so makes no less than three numerical blunders in the course of eleven lines. As all three are errors of computation, they partly prepare us for the loose arithmetical processes which follow further on. Whilst neither of these blunders is really important to the argument, our contemporary, in claiming 10,000 sittings less than his computation properly allowed him, certainly did himself an injustice, and was guilty of the sin of underrating that "goodly inheritance" which he believes himself to possess in the Established Church. Instead of claiming 7,040,443, he should have claimed 7,050,443. But inasmuch as we have already exposed the fallacy of the whole argument—resting as it does upon accepting "with strict exactness" that which Mr. Mann has himself disavowed in such a sense—we need not go over the same ground again here. However, it is not a little singular that while the *Church Times* repudiates the religious census of 1851 as an "amazing hoax," in so far as it favours the claims of Dissenters, he fastens with avidity upon that statement in it which appears to favour his own exorbitant claim, notwithstanding the express caution against doing so which follows the statement itself. Is this upon the principle of "any port in a storm"? Our contemporary says that "the only question that could be raised from Mr. Mabbs' point of view was whether the Church extension movement had progressed as rapidly after 1851 as it was doing in the previous ten years." But the question actually raised in our article was as to what the increase between 1841 and 1851 really was. Until that has been satisfactorily answered no valid computation can be deduced therefrom.

In a former article the *Church Times* claimed for the Established Church buildings a superior standard of capacity to that applied to Dissenting chapels, because of their much greater permanence, "whereas Dissenting congregations very often migrate, and a new meeting-house often means a mere substitute for an old one." We have already pointed out that this consideration would apply as much to the Established Church as to Dissenters, as the reports of Church Building Societies abundantly show, and that therefore the claim cannot be allowed. Without, however, either meeting our argument or abandoning his claim, the *Church Times* now turns round and takes the other ground, viz., that "unconsecrated chapels are *very numerous indeed*," and that therefore the Established Church has a much larger number of places of worship than those represented by the Convocation returns of newly-consecrated churches. They must indeed be numerous, if, in order to make the census returns and those of Convocation agree, we are to allow that 479 new *temporary* places of worship were opened between 1841 and 1851, beside the 718 newly-consecrated churches claimed by the Convocation return. But we have a right to ask our contemporary on which statement he is prepared to base his claim, for it is manifest that he cannot be allowed to make two claims, one of which is inconsistent with the other. Either he must give up his first claim to superior accommodation, based on the absence of the temporary and ephemeral element in the buildings opened, or he must abandon the claim to greatly increased accommodation, which he has now founded upon the assertion that the buildings of this class are "very numerous indeed." In homely phrase, he cannot "both eat his cake and have it."

In reply to our statement that to make the Convocation estimate fit in with the census returns it would be necessary to allow 862 sittings to each new church, or considerably more than double their ascertained capacity at that period, the *Church Times* replies that with a slight modification in its terms (which, however, he does not specify) this would be a very moderate statement indeed. And he appeals to the report of the Incorporated Church Building Society, which he quotes as "a piece of statistics that will, no doubt, surprise the editor of the *Nonconformist* and Mr. Mabbs." On the authority of this report (for 1876) he states that between 1818 and 1876 the society has helped to build 1,743 churches, and to rebuild or enlarge 4,780 others. The total number of new sittings thus obtained is stated as 1,621,930. "So that," continues our contemporary, "each additional church aided by the society represented, if it did not contain, 930 sittings." He then states that the number of additional churches consecrated between 1800 and 1872 was 3,204, or, allowing for the six years since expired, there have been altogether some 3,600 or 3,700. (The average for the last six years would only make the total 3,471.) And he multiplies the 3,600 by 930, and thereby obtains a total of 3,348,000, which he gives as the new sittings since 1801. Then allowing for unconsecrated churches he brings up the number to three and a-half millions, and reckoning a similar number as previous to 1801 makes a total of seven millions at the present time. Well, this certainly would be rather a surprising statement *if it were only borne out by facts*; but turning to the society's reports for 1866 and 1877, what do we find? On the page preceding the table quoted a simple summary of the year's work is given in each, which, taken together, include the following features. In 222 assisted parishes and districts there were 211 churches, with 64,714 sittings (giving an average of 307 sittings per church). Out of these the 82 churches in trading, mining, or manufacturing districts contained accommodation for about 42,293 persons (or about 516 sittings per church), while 129 churches in the agricultural districts had 23,259 sittings (or an average of 180 sittings per church). There would be 55 new churches built, with 28,229 sittings (or an average of 513 per church). And if the total accommodation in these districts be taken together, we have 266 churches, old and new, with 104,876 sittings, or an average of 394 sittings each. In what possible way do these figures bear out the absurd claim of 930 sittings which, according to the tabular statement quoted, each church is said to represent? Instead of this, they come, as a whole, exceedingly near to the census estimate of 377 sittings per church, upon which Mr. Mabbs' estimate for 1877 of 6,032,000 sittings is based. This is "church extension" with a vengeance.

As collateral evidence the *Church Times* quote some figures from the "Manchester Diocesan Directory," and makes a statement of the church accommodation in the town of Nottingham which, though not necessary for the argument, requires careful examination. For the present, however, we have exhausted our space, but may deal with these specific cases hereafter.

Notwithstanding all the special pleading and adroit manipulation of figures which have marked our contemporary's advocacy of his case, we leave it to our readers to say whether he has shown any solid reason for discrediting the figures of Mr. Mabbs for 1877, which, when brought down to the present year, as we showed in our last, give to the Established Church a total of 6,087,042 sittings.

We are glad to find that the *Church Times* is willing to join in a demand for another religious census in 1881. He thinks, however, that the local details should be published for verification on the spot, and we agree with him that such publication would be useful and desirable, as has been already urged in our columns. But with his objection to take into account any sittings but such as exist in buildings entirely set apart for public worship, we have less sympathy, provided that accommodation of this description is regularly used on the Sunday. On this matter we will quote from the Incorporated Church Building Society's report the following words:—"A mission church, a school chapel, *or even a room decently fitted up for the purpose*, is of invaluable service for the effectual working and organisation of a large parish. Within the walls of such humble buildings, whether placed in the very midst of a crowded town district, or in some distant hamlet of an extensive agricultural parish, congregations may often be gathered of those who never have gone, and never will go, to the parish church." However humble, such useful agencies as these certainly ought not to be ignored. And besides this, in not a few parishes, the bigotry of Established Church landowners renders any more permanent Dissenting provision impossible.

The Rev. George Dunnett, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, has obtained the sole right of "publishing" a bust in Parian marble of Mr. Spurgeon, which is a reduced copy of one in the Pastor's College lecture-hall, sculptured by Mr. John Adams Acton last year, and which has been greatly admired. The bust stands fifteen inches high, and is eight inches broad. It is supplied in Parian marble and terra cotta at one guinea each, and is cheap at that figure. Mr. Dunnett hopes by the sale of the bust to realise something to add to the fund for the new place of worship which he and his friends are erecting in a poor locality in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Literature.

*THE LATE RECORDER HILL.**

The late Recorder Hill had earned, many years before his death, a deservedly high reputation, but that reputation was neither equal to his character nor to his services. To most readers of the present generation he was known only as the famous Recorder of Birmingham, who, from time to time, delivered some remarkably able charges relating to crime and its punishment. What Matthew Davenport Hill had done before this had passed out of memory. What he was doing in addition was—and necessarily so, for the most part—unknown. Who remembered his famous defences, half a century ago, of the old reformers? Who remembered his speeches in the House of Commons while he sat for Hull in the first reformed Parliament? Nay, how many could call to recollection the fact that he had ever heard, not only the member, but one concerning whom it was safe to predict that he would rise to the highest eminence in the House? Yet no man took a more active part in some of the social and political struggles of half a century ago than the subject of this memoir, and few men assisted them to their ultimate success with greater vigour or greater activity.

Recorder Hill was essentially a self-made man. It seems that he could claim connection with the family of John Hampden, and also with that "Hudibras Butler." His father was a member of Priestley's congregation at Birmingham, where he was born in 1792. Here were antecedents and associations sufficient to influence any character! Add to that the fact that the father was a schoolmaster, and that Matthew, who was the eldest son, was early compelled to take part in the management of the school, and we have an additional source of intellectual stimulus. Two sons at least became famous—the Recorder and his brother, Sir Rowland Hill. There is a good anecdote told of Matthew's intellectual independence in early life, when he rebelled against the authority of Euclid:—

> In a walk from Birmingham to Kidderminster, continued the next day to Stourbridge, we began Euclid. He made me acquainted with the postulates and axioms, and told me that Euclid did not require any further admissions from his pupils. When, however, my father came to the fourth proposition of the first book, he, in the name of Euclid, called on me to lay one triangle upon another. But, I answered, there was no postulate to justify the request; which my father admitted, and too openly showed his gratification that I had hit such a blot in the work of the great master. The incident was unfortunate for me in more ways than one. I conceived a contempt for the system of Euclid, which I looked upon as an imposture; and showing, as I suppose I did, a disinclination to hear anything more of the "Elements," the subject was laid by for years.

We find Matthew, at eighteen years of age, contributing to the *Midland Chronicle*. Of course, the contributions were Liberal, but yet not altogether so revolutionary as the extreme Radicalism of that day. We next, as an important step, find him doing an unprecedented thing: he was the first Birmingham man who ever studied for the Bar. The fact seems strange, but Birmingham was not then what it is now. He came to London with few or no resources, contributed to the *Morning Herald*, then a journal of great power, and in course of time, reported for it both in the House and elsewhere. He seems to have done all the work he could do, but wisely varied it by wide general reading. Engaged early in life to his future wife, we find that in 1818:—

> Matthew's efforts to make a certain income, however modest, had hitherto met with scant reward. "If I could look forward," he wrote to Miss Bucknall early in 1818, "with any certainty to the future, I should be happy; but I cannot. How to make up 200*l.* per annum I cannot think. 'Tis hard that a man who has spent so many hours in qualifying for literature cannot look forward to a mere bread-and-cheese support from it; nay, to a mere bread support, to say nothing of the cheese." Still he strove diligently to satisfy this moderate ambition. A week later he tells her:—"Last night I reported for the *Herald*—I wrote nearly three columns and stood the task well, though I was labouring almost without intermission for nearly twelve hours. Well, I gained a guinea, and heard some good speaking, and improved myself in the power of reporting, and ascertained that my capacity for labour was not impaired. This was well, was it not?"

Hill's case in another respect was one of many. After studying for the Bar for years he was told by a friendly barrister that his chance of winning a fair subsistance there was hopeless. This damped him for a time, but he judiciously took other advice—that of Mr. Charles Pearson, the late City Solicitor, who not only gave him every encouragement, but plenty of work as well. In due time he was called; went to the Midland Circuit, and found that he had sufficient income upon which to marry. Although, subsequently, his best practice was before the Privy Council and Parliamentary committees, he was soon known as a warm defender of political rights. His first brief was connected with the Manchester massacre, and he defended amongst others, Major Cartwright, Mrs. Carlisle, and the Nottingham rioters. On his circuit he was contemporary in practice with Denman, Goulburn, and Amos. Here are some tales of the time:—

> When Vaughan set the court in a roar, Clarke would look round for a victim, and as my risible faculties were under poor control at the time, he often pitched upon me. "Mr. Hill," he asked on one occasion, "are you in this case?" "No, sir," "Then what business have you to laugh?" Denman "used to revel in this story." In the course of his circuit experience Mr. Hill heard many strange appeals from the lips of Clarke in the performance of his professional duty, and not a few have already found their way into print. The following, it is believed, are not among the number. Mr. Clarke desired to undo the effect produced on the jury by the opposing counsel, who had excited their sympathy in behalf of his client as being an orphan. "Gentlemen," said the venerable king's counsel, my learned friend has told you that the plaintiff is an orphan. But people's mothers and fathers can't live for ever. Why, gentlemen, *I* am a orphan!" On another occasion, when prosecuting some itinerant venders of what were then called blasphemous publications, he concluded his address to the jury by this extraordinary peroration:—"These men go about the country saying 'there is no hell and no devil.' Where, then, gentlemen, where then, I ask you, is the poor man's consolation on his death-bed?"

Hill seems to have had great facility in making friends and in attaching them to him. Major Cartwright was one of his earliest and best; but he was intimate with all who, at that period, were moving on the advanced line—Brougham, Bentham, Charles Knight, and Serjeant Wilde especially. We have noticed, by the bye, that, throughout the many references to Brougham in this volume, and the various incidents relating to the intimate intercourse that existed between the two men, there is not one word in disparagement of Brougham, but much in the contrary direction. This can be said of no other book of its kind that has recently been published.

It was in 1822 that Hill took a step in a direction which occupied his thoughts throughout his subsequent life. He wrote a pamphlet on education which obtained great notice both in England and on the Continent. Then we find him a leading contributor to *Knight's Quarterly*, where Macaulay won his spurs. He threw himself heart and soul into the famous Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, and began to take up social questions. All this was, at best, difficult and uphill work at that time, but the famous men of the day never shrank from work, and encouraged each other in an admirable way. Jealousy amongst them seemed to be utterly unknown.

A man of Hill's wide acquaintance, influence, varied powers, and liberal principles was naturally looked up to as a popular member in the first reformed Parliament. He was selected for Hull, engaging in a vigorous contest, but coming in with flying colours. One naturally stops here, as Mr. Hill and his friends did not attempt to forecast the future. At about forty years of age he had reached a high eminence at the Bar, and had the political world before him. His abilities, if not those of genius, were better than of the "genius" order. They were great and equal all round. In a reformed House of Commons, and with a reformed Government, there seemed to be nothing to prevent his attaining the highest political, if he did not prefer the highest judicial, position. These matters were, we daresay, subjects of day-dreams. If so, they were destined not to be fulfilled. He took his stand in the House on advanced Liberal principles. He presented there the first petition for municipal reform; took active part in the Prisoners' Criminal Bill, one of the most important measures of criminal law reform; was an ardent advocate for the political rights of Jews, as well as for the natural rights of slaves, and made, next to Bulwer, the best speech for the abolition of the newspaper stamp. What might not be expected from such a beginning of a political career? Yet, when Parliament was dissolved he was not re-elected, and he made up his mind at once to give up political life. He had good reasons. He could not do his work at the Bar and in the House at the same time, and henceforward he declined every solicitation to stand for a seat in Parliament.

Is this altogether to be regretted? We think not. As Recorder of Birmingham, to which office he was appointed in 1839, Mr. Hill exercised an influence of a kind very peculiar. Possibly, and most probably, he would not have done the work that he of all others was most capable of doing, if he had thrown himself into political life. Instead of this he gave his best attention to criminal jurisprudence. His career as Recorder we need not dwell upon; it is in the memory of all of us. But no one can justly pass it by without paying tribute to his fine abilities and his rare sagacity as a law reformer. It may be said of him that he revolutionised the whole treatment of prisoners, and especially of young prisoners. He based all his views upon large principles backed by the largest experience. He rescued us from a state of real disgrace. We have not space, nor is it needful, to trace the changes and the action of Recorder Hill as a criminal law reformer. This is done in some detail in this work. Naturally it is a part of his life, in which his descendants take the greatest pride; for, not only can they look back to successful patriotic exertions, but to a wide and well-earned fame throughout Europe and America. Mr. Hill's career as a Bankruptcy Commissioner at Bristol was honourable, and earned high honour; but he was never a mere official. Anything tending to social advancement found in him, to the end of his long life, an earnest and practical advocate. He died in 1872, nearly eighty years of age.

Miss Rosamond and Miss Florence Hill have produced not only an interesting but an able book—one, however, the obvious, as the necessary, result of peculiar labour. They well represent their father as he was—an upright, well cultured, judicious man; yet, withal, devotedly affectionate and full of fun. His mind was well balanced. His portrait tells us that he was a "knowing" man. Undoubtedly he was, but not with painful self-consciousness.

* *The Recorder of Birmingham.* A Memoir of Matthew Davenport Hill, &c. By His Daughters ROSAMOND and FLORENCE DAVENPORT-HILL. (Macmillans.)

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*MR. M'CARTHY'S HISTORY OF OUR OWN TIMES.**

Mr. McCarthy has executed a very difficult task with no slight success. He has evidently made a very careful and complete survey of the best contemporary authorities, exhibits an impartial, almost judicial tone throughout, and writes with an unaffected vigour and simple direct picturesqueness which are decidedly attractive. And this is surely no slight praise. The writer of history is surrounded with trials even when he deals with events and characters removed to such a distance as subdues the action of the most assertive passions and prejudices; how much more must this be the case when the historian is concerned with topics round which the passion of party controversy and personal feeling still largely plays. Many of the men whom Mr. McCarthy has already pourtrayed in these first two volumes are still prominent in public life; and in the next two volumes he will have a still more crowded stage in this respect. But no fear need be entertained for him on this account. From what is before us we can judge how calm and controlled is his judgment, and how, while he will as successfully penetrate behind mere action to traits and motives, he is not likely to assume the attitude of the partisan. All this indicates peculiar powers. The negative qualities demanded in such a writer are almost as important as the positive ones. His faculty of ignoring must be as active as his faculty of appropriating. Mr. McCarthy's work—even after several attempts so far in the same direction—will, we have no doubt, speedily become essential to every good library.

Mr. McCarthy, too, recognises the new principle of writing history. He does not concern himself merely with the contests of parties, the affairs of State, the endless procession of picturesque and striking episodes. He gives attention to social, ecclesiastical, and literary matters, sketching succinctly and gracefully the more distinguished men and women of the period with which he deals. To many, indeed, we are not sure but some of these glimpses into the more out-of-the-way corners will be the more attractive. At any rate, no reader can by possibility find fault with his volumes for lack of variety. When we mention as among the headings of his chapters, "Science and Speed," "Chartism," "The Opium War," "Movements in the Churches," "The Disasters of Cabul," "Free Trade and the League," "Famine, Commercial Trouble, and Foreign Intrigue," "Chartism and Young Ireland," "The Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, "The Exhibition in Hyde Park," "Palmerston," "Mr. Gladstone," "The Invasion of the Crimea," and "The Literature of the Reign," some notion may be formed at once of Mr. McCarthy's width of interest and of the attractions of his book. He is alike incisive and graceful in sketching characters so contrasted as Palmerston and Peel, Melbourne and Brougham, Macaulay and Dr. Newman—doing justice to the former as against those who blame him

* *A History of Our Own Times.* From the Accession of Queen Victoria to the Berlin Congress. By JUSTIN MCCARTHY. In Four Vols. Vols. I. and II. Second Edition. (Chatto and Windus.)

for superficiality, and defending the latter from the charge often brought against him of having been actually verging towards Rome long before he avowed it—and Gladstone and Disraeli. His chapter on the latter indeed is a remarkable piece of faithful portraiture. He is not extravagant in his charges against Lord Beaconsfield, nor does he "aught extenuate." He admits elements of disingenuousness, but acquits Mr. Disraeli of any deep-dyed falsity in his change from Radical opinions to Toryism. Mr. McCarthy considers that the Liberal side did not promise to open up to him any career, and that he might well regard himself as justified in accepting the opening to usefulness which alliance with the Tory squires presented; though it seems to be admitted that he had not then looked at politics very earnestly, or with any convictions. The latter idea seems to us to describe Lord Beaconsfield's whole career. A cleverly-audacious, glittering, ingenious, half-shameless kind of mind, that can use very freely any instrument or opportunity for its purposes, and is never inclined to look very widely or very deeply into anything. His very defects make him the greater a master of the kind of rhetoric which is immediately available in such an assembly as the House of Commons. This Mr. McCarthy has noted and illustrated; remarking particularly on his earlier attacks on Sir Robert Peel. We may quote this passage for the sake of the smart epigram embodied in it:—

Now that he had proved himself so brilliant a *spadassin* in this debate, men began to remember that he had dealt trenchant blows before. Many of his sentences attacking Peel, which have passed into familiar quotation, like proverbs, were spoken in 1845. He had accused the great Minister of having borrowed his tactics from the Whigs. "The right honourable gentleman caught the Whigs bathing, and he walked away with their clothes. He has left them in the full enjoyment of their Liberal position, and he is himself a strict conservative of their garments." "I look on the right honourable gentleman as a man who has tamed the shrew of Liberalism by her own tactics. He is the political Petruchio who has outbid you all." "If the right honourable gentleman would only stick to quotation instead of having recourse to obloquy, he may rely upon it he would find it a safer weapon. It is one he always wields with the hand of a master, and when he does appeal to any authority in prose or verse he is sure to be successful, partly because he seldom quotes a passage that has not already received the meed of Parliamentary approbation." We can all readily understand how such a hit as the last would tell in the case of an orator like Peel, who had the old-fashioned way of introducing long quotations from approved classic authors into his speeches, and who not unfrequently introduced citations which were all the better welcomed by the House because of the familiarity of their language.

The following, from his sketch of Dr. Newman, may be read with interest, though the whole passage on Dr. Newman is penetrated by fine insight and subtle discrimination, and must for full effect be read as a whole:—

The abilities of Dr. Newman were hardly surpassed by any contemporary in any department of thought. His position and influence in Oxford were almost unique. There was in his intellectual temperament a curious combination of the mystical and the logical. He was at once a poetic dreamer and a sophist—in the true and not the corrupt and ungenerous sense of the latter word. It has often been said of him and of another great Englishman, that a change in their early conditions and training would easily have made Newman a Stuart Mill, and of Mill a Newman. England in our time has hardly had a greater master of argument and of English prose than Newman. He is one of the keenest of dialecticians; and like Mill has the rare genius that dissolves all the difficulties of the most abstruse or perplexed subject, and shows it bare and clear even to the least subtle of readers. His words dispel mists; and whether they who listen agree or not, they cannot fail to understand. A penetrating poignant satirical humour is found in most of his writings; an irony sometimes piercing suddenly through it like a darting pain. On the other hand, a generous vein of poetry and of pathos informs his style; and there are many passages of his works in which he rises to the height of a genuine and noble eloquence.

And this suggests the remark that Mr. McCarthy's views of ecclesiastical matters appear to us singularly clear and wise. His notes of the efforts made in England by the Nonconformists for equality are uniformly well weighed; while his description of the movements and measures which led to the Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843, show not only knowledge, but fine sympathy; his portrait of Dr. Chalmers, after all that has been said of him, being both graphic and well considered. Mr. McCarthy shows also in high degree the anecdotal faculty, working in also with fine effect occasionally a common saying or a proverb. His anecdote of Marshal Soult in England at the Queen's Coronation is a good instance of this, and also of his way of tracing the undercurrents of influence and pictorially exhibiting them:—

Soult himself felt very warmly the genuine kindness of the reception given to him. Years after, in a debate in the French Chamber, when M. Guizot was accused of too much partiality for the English alliance, Marshal Soult declared himself a warm champion of that alliance. "I fought the English down to Toulouse," he said, "when I fired the last cannon in defence of the national independence; in the meantime, I have been in London, and France knows the reception which I had there. The English themselves cried '*Vive* Soult!' they cried, 'Soult for ever!' I had learned to estimate the English on the field of battle; I have learned to estimate them in peace; and I repeat that I am a warm partisan of the English alliance." History is not exclusively made by Cabinets and professional diplomatists. It is highly probable that the cheers of a London crowd on the day of the Queen's coronation did something genuine and substantial to restore the good feeling between this country and France, and efface the bitter memories of Waterloo.

The present position of affairs in Afghanistan gives a singular interest to the clear and compact chapter on that subject, in which the author traces out the admirable work which Sir Alexander Burnes did, and the utter folly of which Lord Auckland and his minions were guilty when they directly overturned the policy Burnes had so earnestly advised, stripping him of power, and making him a mere assistant to Macnaghten. Nothing could be better than the way in which Mr. McCarthy reproaches Lord Palmerston and his friends for the "cooking" of these despatches, which was meant to make it seem as though Burnes had actually advised the policy he had deprecated. They wanted to make it appear as though "*some one* had blundered," and to risk all chances to save their own credit, though the pressure of events compelled partial acknowledgment. All has not yet been told that may be told about Burnes; and the only fault we have to find with the next extract is that Mr. McCarthy hardly recognises the one element that did more than any other to keep Burnes in his place. It was loyalty to the East India Company. Youthful ambition was surely very little to be gratified by remaining a mere subordinate or clerk to Macnaghten. Burnes was often divided in his mind whether to become adviser and to urge a change of procedure, for he knew well whither things were tending; but then Macnaghten's whole style repelled him; and he at length settled down into miserable inaction, writing letters home too well indicating his fears of what was yet to come. But he always said he had eaten of the Company's salt and would not desert them, and he was only redeeming his word when he vainly tried to assuage the wild passion of that Afghan mob, conscious of his own rectitude; but, of course, unable to make the wild suspicious crowd believe it. Had Burnes not been so overruled by those who knew nothing, yet acted as though they knew everything, the history of our relations to Afghanistan to this day might have been written in peace and not in blood and death. For a young man, like Burnes, if his ambition only had prompted him, would it not have been easy to resign, come home, and gain laurels by exposing the absolute inanity of those who had so maltreated him? Mr. McCarthy writes:—

Captain Burnes then was placed in the painful difficulty of having to carry out a policy of which he entirely disapproved. He believed in Dost Mahomed as a friend, and he was ordered to regard him as an enemy. *It would have been better for the career and for the reputation of Burnes if he had simply declined to have anything to do with a course of action which seemed to him at once unjust and unwise. But Burnes was a young man, full of youth's energy and ambition.* He thought he saw a career of distinction opening before him, and he was unwilling to close it abruptly by setting himself in obstinate opposition to his superiors. He was, besides, of a quick mercurial temperament, over which mood followed mood in rapid succession of change. A slight contradiction sometimes threw him into momentary despondency; a gleam of hope elated him into the assurance that all was won. It is probable that after a while he may have persuaded himself to acquiesce in the judgment of his chiefs. On the other hand, Dost Mahomed was placed in a position of great difficulty and danger. He had to choose. He could not remain absolutely independent of all the disputants. If England would not support him, he must for his own safety find alliances elsewhere; in Russian statecraft for example. He told Burnes of this again and again, and Burnes endeavoured without the slightest success to impress his superiors as to the reasonableness of Dost Mahomed's arguments. Runjeet Singh, the daring and successful adventurer who has annexed the whole province of Cashmere to his dominions, was the enemy of Dost Mahomed and the faithful ally of England. Dost Mahomed thought the British Government could assist him in coming to terms with Runjeet Singh, and Burnes had assured him that the British Government would do all it could to establish satisfactory terms of peace between Afghanistan and the Punjaub over which Runjeet Singh ruled.

We can only further commend this masterly work to our readers. It ought to be found in every library of importance.

THE MAGAZINES.—FEBRUARY.

Fraser this month is, as usual, best on half-social topics, such as "The Best Friend of the Working Man," and "The Industrial Employment of Women"; but it has also two striking papers relating to home politics. Let us take the last first. One is "English Parties and the Irish Faction," by a Conservative. The writer reviews the almost dictatorial influence which what he thinks the Irish faction can, when it is desired, exercise over the decisions of the House of Commons. He does not suggest that all Ireland should be disfranchised, although he does think that this would be good for her as well as good for us, but he does suggest that a number of seats should be taken from Ireland and given to Great Britain, and after a careful exhibition of figures he shows how this might be done. No doubt Ireland is now disproportionately represented, but he would be a bold statesman who would reduce the number of her members. Talk of Home Rule now? Why, every member would be a Home Ruler! Another Conservative writes of "Reciprocity," that pretty and innocent word which is now made to do duty for Protection. It is well to hear all that can be said, and this is a reasonably written, if a very inconclusive article. Turning to other subjects, we may say that "The Best Friend of the Working Man" tells the working man some home truths. A tale is told by him of button-making, and the influence of trades unions upon that manufacture. It is an incident which Mr. Howell did not mention. Let us give it:—

The *Birmingham Post* laments the depressed condition of one of the staple industries of that great town—the button trade. The manufacture of mother-of-pearl buttons has long been a Birmingham speciality. It is a branch of manufacture which has long commanded large annual orders from the United States. The operative pearl button makers have a union. Among the rules that govern the action of this body occurs the following: Rule 18 says, "That any member of the society working at the trade by means of steam power shall be subject to a fine of £5." How far such a rule can be the outcome of an intelligent view of the interests of the pearl button makers, regarded apart from the rest of the world, we may find occasion to inquire. But under any circumstances, such a rule, to escape the character of idiotic tyranny, must assume the existence of one or two conditions. Either all the pearl buttons in the world will continue to be made by the operative pearl button makers of Birmingham; or all other pearl button makers will also eschew machinery. What is the history of the case? The Birmingham button was so excellent a product of industry that it held its own in the United States, in spite of a protective duty. But the Americans are not competitors to despise. They saw that, in order to enable American-made buttons to compete with Birmingham-made buttons in the American market, it was necessary to reduce the cost of production, and at the same time to produce a good article. The mode in which this requisite has been secured in other branches of manufacture is by the introduction of steam machinery to execute part of the work. Not being bound by Rule 18 of the Union of Birmingham operatives, although no doubt highly approving of the application of that rule in Birmingham, manufacturers in the States have introduced machinery for some of the processes of the fabrication of the article in question. The natural consequence has resulted. The large orders that used to be confidently looked for at certain stated periods of the year from the United States have almost entirely ceased. What the future of that industry is likely to be at Birmingham it is not difficult to foretell. If for Rule 18 had been substituted the resolution "that this Union use their best efforts to secure the transference of the manufacture of pearl buttons from the United Kingdom to the United States," it is difficult to see how such an object could have been more directly promoted than by the invention of Rule 18.

The writer holds that the working man will rise, as he has risen, by the development of machinery. Of other papers we have a pleasant sketch of the Isle of Bourbon, some curious facts concerning Spiritualism in China, and some wise practical suggestions for the development of certain industrial employments for women.

There is a very pleasant and fair sketch of the "Present and Past Conditions of Domestic Service" in *Blackwood*. For ourselves we imagine that too much has been made of this, and that the so-called evil is exaggerated. The writer has missed what Defoe says—exactly what people are saying now. We are still disappointed in the "Contemporary Literature" of *Blackwood*. The subject this month is "Magazine Writers." It is very incompletely treated, and what will the editors of the religious magazines say to this—very accurate, for the most part, though it may be?—

As for the selection and arrangement of the contents, we repeat that they seem to be governed in many instances by shrewd trading principles. Our pious Scotch folks, in particular, are being educated to a latitude of Sunday reading which would have shocked the last generation of Sabbatarians. The latter might have denounced the new system as a jesuitically subtle device of the enemy. It is a perversion and almost a prostitution of the proverb of "Tell me the company you keep, and I will tell you what you are"; and many a profane narrative walks in unquestioned on the first day of the week because it comes locked arm in arm with a homily or an edifying dissertation on the parables. For there is no possibility of denying that the contents are most curiously mixed. The predominating tone has a savour of sanctity. You have a series of papers on practical religion by some scholar and divine of unimpeachable orthodoxy. You have analytical criticism on the text of the sacred writings, with an occasional argument for their historical authority. You have hymns and sacred songs that are more or less sweet and harmonious. You have notes of philanthropical missionary labour in the rookeries and back slums of our great cities, with reports of the progress in the conversion of the Jews, and turning pagan slave-hunters in Central Africa into law-abiding Christian agriculturists. All that is highly consistent and praiseworthy. But we doubt whether boys, like the "Whaup" and his brothers, in Mr.

Black's novel, "A Daughter of Heth," would welcome the Sabbath periodical as a Sabbath blessing, were it not for those fascinating pictures which unfold before their enraptured eyes a panorama of worldly possibilities that read to them like the "Arabian Nights." We turn for freshness to "Mr. Gladstone and the Next Election," and we find nothing but another review of the Russian and Afghan questions. The title is a misnomer. Of fiction, "John Caldigate," we ought to add, sustains its power.

The *University* has a striking portrait and well-written memoir of Miss Emily Faithfull; a good paper on "Illumination and the Electric Light," and another scientific paper on "Aluminium." The writer on "History, Science, and Dogma" reviews with candour and freedom the bearings of recent discoveries in Biblical history on generally accepted Christian doctrine, charging the Christian Church with basing her teaching on "historic ignorance, laden with false views of physiology and natural history, twisted and faltering in ethics." Emphatic illustrations are given. There are other good papers—"Hesiod," for example; but something signed with the well-known initials, "R. D. B.," attracts us :—

DOMINUS ILLUMINATIO MEA.

I.

In the hour of death, after this life's whim,
When the heart beats low, and the eyes grow dim,
And pain has exhausted every limb—
The lover of the Lord shall trust in Him.

II.

When the will has forgotten the lifelong aim,
And the mind can only disgrace its fame,
And a man is uncertain of his own name—
The power of the Lord shall fill this frame.

III.

When the last sigh is heaved, and the last tear shed,
And the coffin is waiting beside the bed,
And the widow and child forsake the dead—
The angel of the Lord shall lift this head.

IV.

For even the purest delight may pall,
The power must fail, and the pride must fall,
And the love of the dearest friends grow small—
But the glory of the Lord is all in all.

Mrs. Lynn Linton is bringing the contest between clerical and domestic influence into strong contrast in her tale, "Under which Lord?" in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, where the master of the house is being virtually supplanted by the cleric. The dialogue is very vigorous, and the situations admirably presented. On the whole, we rather regret that Mr. Arthur Arnold should have his own pet scheme for the "Development of Western Asia," although he supports it with apparently reasonable considerations. But we will not criticise, for we have no pet scheme of our own. Mr. Thomas Foster is endeavouring to show, in another article, that we are not English, but British, and that the original inhabitants of Britain remained amongst the Saxons. This has been maintained before, and although it is not the popular theory, it has, no doubt, great truth in it. The other contents of the *Gentleman's* are fairly good.

Temple Bar will be welcomed for Leland's Western and Negro tale of "Ebenezer"—one of the best that even he has written. The next best is a fresh paper on "Literature and Medicine," full of old and new information from Hippocrates down to Elliotson. There is a gossiping paper, too, about "Etty," and another on "Madame de Maintenon"—both genially written sketches. Is the fiction as good as usual?

Once or twice the *Cornhill* has given us some strange stories of second-sight. There is one this month—"Miss Morier's Visions"—that will interest spiritualists, and there is another, the "Evil Eye"—curious, but no more. "Electric Lighting"—more hopeful in character than some of the most recent writings upon that subject. "Antinous" is a remarkable sketch, and the "Polish Alps" will be new even to some of the hardest travellers. Poor Lottie is exciting a little too much sympathy, but "Mademoiselle de Mersac" is admirable for its shades of character.

A lively paper, "My Friends in Ant Hill City," in *Belgravia*, should interest all young naturalists. The description of the ant battle is done almost to perfection. "Edinburgh Society Fifty Years Ago" should be universally interesting. What a galaxy there was—never probably equalled for its combination of variety and power. The writer tells nothing that is not well known, but all is effectively and lightly brought together. The lighter matter, this month, s very good, especially Mr. Payn's adventures in Epping Forest in search of the Maypole Inn at Chigwell; but Mr. Payn is not the first who has made that adventure with somewat similar results. Mr. Percy Fitzgerald should not repeat his experiment of writing tragical lines such as "Vanderdecken's Dream." This is a melancholy failure.

The reader will find in *London Society* a copious and eulogistic biography of Mr. Isaac Holden, of Bradford—the moral of the life being expressed in the words "It's dogged as does it." The accompanying portrait is poor. There is a good deal of human philosophy in another paper, "On being knocked down and picked up again," and a clever sketch of "Patriotism." The other contents are so-so.

In the *Argosy*, "Johnny Ludlow" continues his tale of "Lady Jenkins," but does not bring it to a conclusion. There is, as always, other good light and sketchy matter.

Scribner issues a remarkably good number. Most interesting is the sketch of Mr. Emerson, with the fine characteristic portrait, the genial narrative of his life, and the illustrations of Concord, of the Old Manse, and the Study. Better than all, perhaps, are the quotations, some of which will be new to many readers. The illustrations, also, in "The Tile Club at Play" are very fine, equal to some of the best of etchings. Dr. Eggleston says some plain things "To the Clergy," which we recommend to that class. "The Doom of Claudius and Cynthia" contains some eloquent writing, and Mr. Stedman's "Aerial Navigation" will certainly excite curiosity. The author gives us illustrations of the air-ship of the future.

The reader of *Leisure Hour* will hardly make his way entirely through "English Provincial Dialects," which are more curious, in some respects, than euphonius. Very good is the second paper, "When George the Third was King," while our geologists themselves are taught something in the "Origin of Life." The "Legal Anecdotes" are amusing, Here is one that will be new :—

The practice of passing notes about in this way extends to the very highest courts of the kingdom. When the great case of Gorham *v.* the Bishop of Exeter was being decided in 1850, it was noticed that a piece of foolscap made its way from one member of the Privy Council to another, and that four or five of the "Lords" made a memorandum upon it. It was doubtless imagined that the solemn and learned judges at the table conveyed to one another legal dicta of great value and importance. On the rising of the court the writer accidentally came across the paper, crumpled upon the floor. Each verse was written by a separate member of the council, and bearing in mind that their opinions varied between High and Low Church, and that the question being discussed was of baptismal regeneration, the contents are interesting and amusing. We need hardly remind the reader that the last stanza relates to the enormous *costs* incurred in the proceedings.

PLAINTIFF.

A. Baptized a baby
Becomes *sine labe*.
As the Act makes it,
So the Church takes it.

DEFENDANT.

B. Unless he be fit,
We very much doubt it;
And never a bit
Is it valid without it!

COURT.

C. Bishop and Vicar,
Why do you bicker,
Each with his brother?
Since both are right,
Or one is quite
As wrong as the other!

JUDGMENT.

D. Bishop non-suited,
Priest unrefuted,
Be instituted.

COSTS.

E. Deliberative,
Pondering well,
Each take a shell,
And the lawyers the native!

What will Archdeacon Denison say when he reads this! The most solemn affairs of the Church made the jest of Erastian lawyers!

Sunday at Home is best in the "Tour in Northern Russia," by Mr. Lansdale, which gives curious information. Very interesting are two papers on the "Huguenot Cemetery at Wandsworth," and Canon Rawlinson's "Religions of the Assyrians and Babylonians."

The *Day of Rest* is distinguished by Miss Ellice Hopkins's "Practical Suggestions to the Sick"—wise and thoughtful, as they were sure to be; Dr. Vaughan's "Follow Me," and Mr. Proctor's "Discoveries of Astronomers." This series, just begun, is exactly what was wanted for popular readers.

The *Sunday Magazine*. The "Story of Joan of Arc" is not equal to other stories by the same author, who, this time, has failed to realise the period of the tale. There is a good paper on the "Hidden Sick," and a moderately fair one on "Wet Sundays."——*Good Words* is remarkably good. See especially Mr. Pryce's "Locks and Safes," and Mr. William Gilbert's "An Unappreciated Charity." It could be wished that the latter were made more public.

The most curious articles in *Cassell's Family Magazine* are "Dust Ho!" "Frank Ross at Oxford," and "Recent Progress in Japan." The "Gatherer" is always full of information, but he is ridiculously behind time this month regarding "Phosphorescent Time Pieces," which have been exhibited in the shops for months past.——There is nothing in the *Quiver* calling for special notice.

The *Catholic Presbyterian* fully sustains, and indeed more than sustains, the promise of its first number. Dr. Cairns has a thoughtful paper on "Recent Theories of Future Punishment"; Dr. Lang an equally thoughtful paper on "Revivals and Revivalism"; Dr. Rainy a good critical paper on "Merle d'Aubigné," but naturally more eulogistic than critical; and there are half-a-dozen more articles far beyond average merit. This new journal promises to bring out the best scholarship that is in the Presbyterian churches.

The *Evangelical Magazine* has an admirable portrait of Dr. Fairbairn, and papers by Dr. Mellor, Mr. Eustace Conder, Mr. Pearson, and Mr. Baldwin Brown. Mr. Conder writes very acutely on the hypothesis that the "ten tribes" are historically lost. From Mr. Baldwin Brown's paper we quote the following relating to the future battle with Rome :—

It is a misery much to be deplored, that the cause of religion, which is the cause of human order and progress, has got itself associated in the mind of all the Latin peoples with a tyrannous, idolatrous, and lying Church. It makes the strong-minded and clear-sighted among the champions of progress atheists for awhile, atheists *quoad* such a God as the Church presents for their homage; while it drives the timid and anxious, who fear that somehow religion will fall if the Church is left to the tender mercies of the foe, into the arms of the clerical reaction, as the only means of averting the overthrow of all the most sacred institutions of society.

The first battle will be fought upon the education question, and the leaders will need all their judgment and self-control to fight it wisely; to show that they are not the foes of religion, but only of Rome. But beyond this battle-field lie other and more perilous ones, in which the very existence of the Roman hierarchy will be at stake. We are no alarmists; we believe too profoundly in the ruling and guiding hand which is above all. But all the warnings of history are fallacious, if there is any peaceful end to centuries of such wrong and woe as the Roman hierarchy has inflicted on society. Its doom is pronounced; its end is near. But it will die hard. It may be that the last act of the drama will be the fullest of sorrow and trouble for mankind.

The *Biograph* is the second or third experiment of its kind. Two numbers are before us. The biographies are very well executed—three especially—Mr. Armitage, R.A., Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Richard, M.P.——*Kensington* succeeds the "Pantile Papers." We scarcely see room for it, as it is at present conducted, and cannot see how room will be found.——The *Christian Treasury* has a variety of essentially religious matter, well selected for religious effect, but of comparatively little literary merit.——The *Family Treasury* is enterprising. Dr. Symington has a paper on "Adam and Eve and the Devil," supporting the literal orthodox view; Dr. Mellor discourses of the Transfiguration, and Professor Delitzch commences a tale of Jerusalem in the time of the Herods—an experiment which we should not have anticipated from the great commentator.——The *Scottish Congregationalist* has an article on the "Church and the Working Classes"; but it is singularly incomprehensive, and misses all the real causes of alienation. ——We always welcome the *Fireside*, conducted by its popular editor, Mr. Bullock. This month we have a continuation of the late Mrs. Balfour's tale, and the ever new and sagacious papers of the Rev. Charles Bardsley on the "Romance of the London Directory," as good in their way as anything that Horne Tooke wrote.——We have also *Golden Hours*, the best contents of which are "My Shop and I," by Madame Coulin, the *Mother's Friend*, which sustains its old reputation; *Excelsior*, the *Child's Companion*, *Kind Words*, &c. Nor let us omit the *Gardener's Magazine*, as brimful of appropriate information and advice as ever.

The young folks, we are sure, will read *Little Folks* with as absorbing an interest as ever. There is an especially good tale this month of the "Two Fourpenny Bits," not yet finished, however. And *St. Nicholas?* Here it is, full of rare fun and rare engravings, and withal singularly fresh to the last page, as the children's *Scribner* is sure to be.

The Educational Year Book for 1879. (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.) Intended, we are told, for parents and guardians as a school directory, this book is much more than that. It contains an account of the primary schools of the country, drawn from the last volume of the "Minutes of Council on Education," and a list of all the school boards. Then follows an alphabetical list of all the higher schools and colleges, with the date of the foundations, their terms, curriculum, fees, scholarships, and exhibitions. The higher colleges

and Universities are similarly described, the details being very full. The local examinations and institutions for female education are given with all the information that can be required. The volume is, we believe, a novelty. It certainly supplies a great want, and deserves to be widely known. We have found it to be a most instructive as well as an interesting work.

RITUALISM AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

The churchwardens of Wolverhampton, acting on behalf of the Church parishioners, and the Bishop of Lichfield are at issue. The former, representing the aggrieved parishioners of Christ Church and St. Andrews, laid some complaints relative to Ritualistic practices before the late bishop, and Dr. Selwyn proposed some sort of compromise which would have authorised illegal and superstitious practices on most Sundays with a meagre supply of Protestant services in conformity with the order of the Reformed Church of England on one Sunday. This suggestion did not give satisfaction. The controversy, interrupted for a short season by Bishop Selwyn's death, has been renewed since with fresh ardour. Bishop Maclagan virtually reaffirmed Bishop Selwyn's decision. In the course of the controversy, however, the churchwardens had sought an interview with the new bishop, and in a subsequent letter thus described the service at St. Andrews:—

What occurs at that service? The singing of the 'Agnus Dei," and the prostration three times of both vicar and curate as the choir sing "Lamb of God," &c. We interpret these prostrations by a curate teaching that he was invested with supernatural powers, through which, as he uttered certain words, the bread became instinct with life, and the living Lord, lying on that altar (to which he pointed), said to the congregation, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour." When this was related, you shrunk back on your chair, and said in pained tones, "Did they teach that?" When we put the question, "Could you, my lord, attend or accept such a service?" did you not reply, "I could not"? Further, did you not advise us to keep our children from such teaching? Besides, did you not say, "you would not permit a child of yours to enter such churches"?

Bishop Maclagan declined to take proceedings as proposed by the churchwardens, and through his secretary sent a reply, in the course of which he says:—

The bishop desires me to express his great surprise that you should have published in the daily newspapers your very imperfect and partial recollections of a private conversation which took place at his house some weeks ago relating to subjects of great difficulty, upon which some of the wisest and best men of this generation have been content to speak with considerable diffidence. Such a course of proceeding, if generally adopted, would render impossible any confidential intercourse between the bishop and the lay officers of his diocese. The bishop has now given his decision, and directs me to say that he must decline to hold any further communication with you upon this subject.

The churchwardens rejoin to the effect that there had been no breach of confidence, and that they appeared before him not as private individuals, but as complainants before a judge appointed by the archbishop to hear their case. They add:—

We reported the interview at once to our friends; we should have been guilty of a breach of trust if, without the knowledge and consent of those whom we represented, we had entered into any compromise about the ritual, which is the Church's inheritance, and neither the bishops nor any congregation have any right to carve and alter, or add to it. Although our report of your lordship's statements was short, yet neither of us has any doubt of their substantial accuracy. We did not trust to our memory, as your lordship assumes; but all three of those present committed an account of the interview to writing quite separately and without loss of time, and we may say that all three have been, on comparison, found to agree on all the main points, and we go so far as to say that we are ready to publish those narratives if your lordship so desire.

The *Record*, in commenting on the case, says it is hopeless of 'getting redress from Romish superstition in such cases by any other means than what the Bishop of Oxford terms "the wrangles of the courts of law." Our contemporary goes on to say:—"In the face of recent events what prospect is there that English Churchmen will be upheld by bishops in the maintenance of the true teaching and discipline of their Church? If we can understand Bishop Mackarness, he would refer the solution of all questions to some grand Church Synod, but what of the Church in the meantime, and when will it assemble? Will it be at the Greek Kalends? Is all to drift in hopeless confusion till then? Could not some distinct assurance be given by our prelates to the Church that there is a particular point beyond which they will not tolerate Romish innovations and interpolations in their services? We would like to see their ultimatum presented to England, that it might be judged whether it could be accepted by the nation. It would be perhaps, in the face of Bishop Maclagan's utterance, too much to expect that they would not tolerate breaches of ascertained law; but it would be important to know how many they would sanction, and where the line between Rome and England is after all to be drawn. One consolation alone can be gathered out of the recent action of various prelates, and that is a distinct conviction that England never will entrust to them the destinies of her Church. How far they may have been precipitating the time when more stringent egislation will be called for we do not pretend to determine, but the evils of irresponsible authority, whether genuine or usurped, are already too apparent to encourage the prospect of its continuance."

THE IRISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY PROJECT.

The Dublin correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"A lull has occurred in the discussion of the Catholic University question, the opinion being now prevalent that whatever negotiations have taken place with the Roman Catholic bishops have come to nought in consequence of their refusal to moderate their demands. It was freely said in Dublin that they were probably influenced in maintaining this position by the hope that a Liberal Government might soon be in power, when a large concession would be made to them. The word went forth, accordingly, that the flag was not to be lowered—an independent, fully-endowed Catholic University, with its cluster of endowed colleges, would alone content the Roman Catholics. At the Queen's County Political Club, at the instance of an influential local member of the priesthood, this decision has been put into the form of a resolution that the same endowments and separate advantages must be given to the Roman Catholics as to the Protestants and Secularists in Ireland with respect to University education. The speech of Mr. Fawcett at Ipswich is, however, disconcerting to those who had thus calculated on setting off one party against another, and ultimately in this way gaining the end at which they aimed."

Mr. Fawcett's remarks on the subject in his Ipswich speech were as follows:—"It is now very generally rumoured, on what authority I know not, that the Government are going to embark on what in the past has proved to be one of the most perilous of political enterprises, and that is to bring forward an Irish University Bill which will satisfy what are called the "Catholic claims." When the Conservatives were last in power, and when Lord Mayo was Irish Secretary, a similar task was attempted; but the Catholics then demanded a charter and an endowment for a Catholic University to be entirely under ecclesiastical management. The Government soon discovered that scarcely an English or Scotch Liberal would have voted for such a proposal, and that it would have been rejected with almost complete unanimity by the Conservative party. It is said, however, that things have changed since then; that the Conservatives, then in a minority, are now in a majority, and that their discipline is so perfect that if an order is given to vote that order is implicitly obeyed. But this I absolutely disbelieve. Great as Lord Beaconsfield's influence with his party undoubtedly is, there are some things which he cannot get them to do. Within the last month he found that he was absolutely powerless to induce them to vote a shilling of English money in support of Turkey, and I venture to think that he would be still more powerless to get them to grant money, the proceeds of the disendowment of a Protestant Church, to support a Catholic University the government of which would be under the control of the Roman Catholic clergy. Perhaps it will be said that since Lord Mayo attempted to negotiate with the Irish Catholic bishops, the Catholics have somewhat abated their demands. Well, what happened six years ago, when Mr. Gladstone was Prime Minister? Although he had one of the largest majorities which ever supported a Government, he was defeated on his Irish University Bill. And how was this result brought about? The Conservative party, with complete unanimity, together with a small number of English and Scotch Liberals, voted against the measure, because they believed that the concessions which had been made to the Catholics would exercise a disastrous influence upon higher education in Ireland; and yet these concessions, repudiated and denounced by every member of the present Government, were considered by the Catholics themselves as altogether so inadequate that they strenuously opposed the bill, affirming that it was better to have no bill at all than such a one as was then brought forward. I believe now that nothing could be more to be deplored than if, in view of the general election and what we are constantly told about the Irish vote, the Liberal party should be tempted to swerve one hair's-breadth from the support of those principles of undenominational education which, important as they are in England, I believe are still more important in Ireland. If a single vestige of a test or religious disability can be discovered, we should spare no effort to have it swept away; but having, after a long and arduous struggle, succeeded in nationalising the Universities both of England and of Ireland, no inducement that can be offered to the Liberals as a party, no threat to keep them out of office, should have the slightest influence in persuading them to re-endow denominational institutions."

THE LATE DR. M'NEILE.

The very Rev. Dr. Hugh M'Neile died last week at Bournemouth after a lingering illness. We condense from a daily contemporary some particulars of the career of this eminent Evangelical divine. He was born in Ireland, and took his degree at Trinity College, Dublin. He entered as a student at Lincoln's Inn, but subsequently resolved to become a clergyman, and was ordained as a deacon in 1820. While a curate in Donegal he made the acquaintance of a daughter of Dr. Magee, and two years later married that lady, being shortly afterwards presented to the rectory of Albury, in Surrey, by the late Mr. H. Drummond, M.P.

So able and active a man was, however, not long destined to be hidden in a country parish. His fame gradually spread, and he began to preach in various churches in London, everywhere with great acceptation and very considerable power. The year 1834 saw him collated to the district church of St. Jude, in Liverpool, and here his career of usefulness may be said to have been largely widened. One who knew him well about this time describes him as an eloquent preacher, usually speaking extemporaneously, or at any rate with the aid of but few notes, endowed with a fine commanding presence, somewhat prematurely grey hair—adding perhaps to the effectiveness of his appearance—a good voice, and an agreeable, telling manner. His sermons were somewhat lengthy, but, for all that, very attractive; large congregations attended his ministry, and the strong Evangelical character of his teaching was greatly appreciated. With young men especially he began to be very effective, constituting himself then—as, indeed, throughout all his career in the north—their adviser and friend. By the old he was regarded as a staunch adherent to the recognised doctrines of the Church of England, a champion of what is known as the Evangelical school, and an unflinching opponent of Romanism. Eleven years after his arrival at Liverpool, he received an honorary canonry in Chester Cathedral, his college about the same time presenting him with the degrees of B.D. and D.D., in recognition of the good work he had done. In 1848, his friends, recognising the advisability of securing for him a larger field of labour, built, as a larger church, St. Paul's, Prince's Park, Liverpool, at a cost of nearly 12,000*l.*, and presented him with the incumbency. Here installed, he gained fresh energy, and, devoting himself to the work of the church, both preached and wrote with such effect as to win for himself a far-reaching and commanding influence. His great forte was preaching. Even those who disagreed with his doctrine heard him for the sake of his eloquence; while the pure and admirable life he led added an additional and notable charm to his teaching. Great disinterestedness marked his ministry in Liverpool. At one time, when his friends and admirers would largely have increased his stipend, he refused the offer of further emolument, declaring that he had already all that he desired. On another occasion, a testimonial to his services having been collected, he desired that it should be appropriated to the foundation of four scholarships in the Collegiate Institution of Liverpool, and an exhibition of the value of 40*l.* a year, tenable at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin.

All this while, however, he had been busy with the pen, and during the years of his work as a preacher had produced many able and excellent publications. Amongst other works, was a letter to Dr. Pusey on his "Eirenicon," in which the writer's scholarly attainments were not less visible than his sound orthodoxy, the character of everything he published being that of a clever and careful thinker. It was in consequence of this that he was by this time recognised as one of the leaders of that section of Christians in England who take pride in the appellation of Protestants and glory in the Reformation. Broad Churchmen, as they are now called, were but little known while Dr. M'Neile was at Liverpool, and his attention in polemical divinity was according chiefly confined to attacking the teachings of Rome, of which he was a firm and uncompromising opponent. Towards Nonconformists who belong to the Independent, Baptist, and Wesleyan branches, he always maintained the most friendly attitude, counting them as allies rather than rivals, and co-operating with them in every effort which he conceived as calculated to advance the cause he had so much at heart. This, perhaps, did not endear him to a certain section of extreme Churchmen, but it gained for him the esteem and affection of great numbers of people outside the Establishment. Towards 1868 the Queen, on the recommendation of the Premier—then Mr. Disraeli—appointed him to the Deanery of Ripon. The nomination was hailed with much satisfaction by nearly all classes of the community. During the last few years Dr. M'Neile has been regarded with affection by all sections of the Church, his long and earnest labours gaining for him the esteem of those who at one time opposed him. His death removes one of the ablest advocates of simple, unadorned, religious worship that the Church has possessed for many years.

The remains of the deceased were interred in the cemetery, Bournemouth, on Saturday afternoon, during the prevalence of a snowstorm, which prevented Lord Shaftesbury and other well-known friends of Dean M'Neile from being present. The funeral service was conducted by the Bishop of Peterborough, and the lesson was read by the Rev. Edmund M'Neile. A number of Dean M'Neile's friends and former parishioners from Liverpool were present, also Lord Chancellor Cairns.

PRINCIPAL TULLOCH ON THE SCOTCH ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

Speaking on Friday night at the annual dinner of the Elders' Association in connection with the Established Church in Glasgow, Principal Tulloch said that within the last few months a change had come over the spirit of the Liberal party, and the question of the Church had retired very much in the background. Dr. Hutton, it was true, still lived—(loud laughter)—and the Liberation Society was, so far as he knew, not yet bankrupt—(renewed laughter)—although, if the *Quarterly Review* were to be believed, there seemed to be some possible danger of that. (Renewed laughter.) There had also always been a Radical party, an Extreme Left of the Liberal party, who had desired the abolition of Churches. He opposed the disestablishment of the Church on the same grounds as he was in favour of the disestablishment of the Irish Church. The Irish Church was never a national Church, but he maintained that the Church of Scotland represented a large preponderance of the Scotch people. He hoped that if Mr. Gladstone came down to Midlothian he would come on broad Liberal grounds. Mr. Gladstone had been too apt of late to be the stormy petrel of his party, and he trusted that his advent in Scotland would not be the pre-

cursor of a storm in the political atmosphere which would rend the Liberal party to pieces. Dr. Tulloch went on to say :—

They were not willing to have so grave a question as the existence of the old national Church of Scotland treated as a side issue. (Hear, hear.) It ought to be put fairly to the country. (Hear, hear.) It was not fair for a man to go before his constituency and to evade the question—("Hear, hear," and applause)—and then go to Parliament and allow himself to be numbered by the heads as a Church abolitionist, and vote according to the exigencies of a party, after having been sent there by hundreds of votes that would never have been given him if he had taken a decided attitude. Why, even the Irish Church question was put to the country, and every voter was able to say by his vote whether he approved of the abolition of the Church or not. He and hundreds of others approved of the step. He thought, and still thought, that it was a fair measure of Liberal policy. The Irish Church was never a national church in the true sense. (Hear, hear.) It was a national church in a legal sense. It never represented anything but a small and extreme section of the Irish people—(Hear, hear)—and for the same reasons they now opposed the abolition of the Scotch Church. They believed that the Church still represented a large preponderance of the Scottish people. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) It was a Presbyterian Church in a Presbyterian country. It was, as the chairman had well said, the church of the poor. (Applause.) He was sure that such a Church, which was doing such useful work, could not be offensive to any fair-minded man. (Hear, hear.) It interfered with no interests. He believed there was not a single abuse connected with the Church of Scotland that could bulk largely in the mind of any fair or enlightened public man—(Hear, hear)—and if there were any such abuse—he meant oppressive abuse towards others—either in the Church of England or Church of Scotland, let them be taken away. (Hear, hear.) From no side would reformers of this kind receive more assistance than from the Liberal Churchmen, but they said, "Don't level or destroy old historical institutions for the sake of faction, or for the sake of denominational jealousy." If Mr. Gladstone should come down to Mid-Lothian, he hoped Mr. Gladstone would come on broad Liberal views. It would, he thought, be unworthy of Mr. Gladstone's great genius and his great reputation to come upon any other ground. He yielded to no one in admiration of the genius and the many splendid qualities of Mr. Gladstone, but he dared say most of them would agree with him that his eloquent genius was sometimes in excess of qualities which he esteemed as more valuable in a statesman. (Applause.) Mr. Gladstone had been too apt of late to become the stormy petrel of his party—(applause)—and he hoped that the advent of the right hon. gentleman in Scotland would not be the precursor of a storm in our political atmosphere which would rend the Liberal party to pieces. (Hear, hear.)

He did not speak without authority in this matter. He was quite prepared, if Mr. Adam would give him the opportunity, to convince him that he (the speaker) had authority behind such a statement as that, so that he trusted that Mr. Gladstone would come, if he came at all, as he had said, on broad Liberal views. He believed honestly that the Liberal party, to which he had belonged all his life, would enter upon a career which would be ruinous to itself and disastrous to the country if it moved prematurely such a question as disestablishment. They should let unripened questions alone.

Sir George Campbell, addressing his constituents at Kirkcaldy on Saturday, said Mr. Gladstone and Lord Hartington were practically pledged to disestablishment, and if the feeling in Scotland was in its favour, feeling in England ought not to prevent it. He was prepared to vote for disestablishment in Scotland whenever there was a hope of its success.

THE DISESTABLISHMENT MOVEMENT.

MEETING AT NOTTINGHAM.

The Nottingham branch of the Liberation Society held a large public meeting on Tuesday evening, Jan. 28, in Exeter Hall—an admirable building for such a purpose, it being semi-circular, with three galleries. The opponents of disestablishment assisted to secure a numerous assembly by issuing a circular, the recipient of which was requested to bring *five* friends of the Church to defeat the purpose for which the meeting had been called. A good number of these Church defenders came, and proved to be mostly young men, who were divided into three bodies in the lower gallery, and made their presence known by occasional interruptions. These, however, did not prevent the speakers delivering their speeches, though once there was an uproar occasioned by an attempt to eject one of the disturbers. It will be remembered that there have been some very turbulent Liberation meetings in this town, on one occasion an attempt to smoke out the audience being made. A good staff of police and commissionaires to preserve order was, therefore, in attendance, and, amid all the noise, tolerable good humour prevailed.

Alderman GRIPPER, who acted as chairman, in the course of his address said that the duties of the bishops in the House of Lords were incompatible with the discharge of their spiritual duties. He also adverted to the fact that Church extension in the present day was the fruit of voluntaryism, and insisted that the same principle should be applied throughout the Church of England. Alluding to the announcement which had been made that Dr. Potter, of Sheffield, would on the following Friday refute the arguments of the deputation, he expressed a hope that those who were present would give a patient hearing to both sides of the question and judge for themselves.

The Rev. W. F. CLARKSON, late of Lincoln, and now of Birmingham, one of the deputation, delivered the first address. After alluding to the triumphs already achieved by the advocates of religious liberty, he dealt with the taunt that they were "political Dissenters," and said :—

They dissented from one another, but their dissent was political only as regarded the Church, which, from beginning to end, from head to foot, from the Archbishop of Canterbury down to the humblest churchwarden, was essentially and intensely political. (Cheers, and "No, no.") He was inclined to adapt the words of Shylock and say, "I am a political Dissenter. Has not a political Dissenter hands, organs, senses, affections, passions? (Laughter.) Are we not warmed and chilled with the same summer and winter? If you prick us with your ecclesiastical disabilities, do we not bleed? If you tickle us with your offers of concession about the burials, do not we laugh? (Applause.) Aye, the politics you teach us we will execute, and it will go hard if we better not the instruction. (Cheers.) But it was said, "You are enemies of the Church, and the Church is in danger through your unscrupulous tactics." ("No, no," and applause.) Those friends were hard to please. They were the very first to start the cry that the Church was in danger, but if the Liberationists took it up they said, "Oh, no; it is as safe as it can possibly be." (Laughter.)

Relative to the ultimate object of the agitation, Mr. Clarkson said :—

They held that not one single citizen ought to enjoy any peculiar favour, and that not one single citizen should be subjected to any special disability because of his religious belief or disbelief. That was the end for which this agitation was being carried on. He would add that that was the end to which, from all signs of the times, they were fast hastening on. In these days he knew it would be said that no man lost anything by being a Dissenter, and that no man gained anything by being a Churchman. Let those believe this who could. It only showed that the pinching shoe was not on the foot of the Churchman. What meant those advertisements which they saw from time to time—not emanating from Church of England institutions, for, then, he would not say a word about them—but from public bodies, asking for certain offices to be filled up, with the intimation that members of the Church of England were required to fill them. If an Irishman took up a paper and read an advertisement ending with the words, "No Irish need apply"—(laughter)—did they not think that his heart would not be wounded to the quick? What, again, meant those stories coming from every quarter of the land of landlords refusing farms to tenants simply because they went to the Methodist chapel instead of to the village church? What meant those stories without number of their rural Nonconformists being unable to have their own ministers minister at funeral rites, but of being obliged to go to a stranger in order to bury their dearest friend—to a stranger in whose church, perhaps, that dearest friend never entered during the whole of his life? So long as these things were, so long, he ventured to say, that men were called upon to lose by being Dissenters, and that there were some who gained by being Churchman. (Hear, hear.)

He next showed that the Establishment had a bad influence on the Church, and examined the plea that it was a national recognition of Christianity—

In what did a national recognition of Christianity consist? Was it found in the House of Commons, where they had a chaplain repeating prayers before every session, or in the House of Lords, where they had found bishops voting on behalf of a war which a large portion of the nation felt to be utterly unjust? ("No, no," and cheers.) Was not the national recognition of Christianity rather to be found in the righteous action of the nation, as represented by its Government—in righteous dealings with its own people and with all the peoples of the earth? (Loud cheers.)

The speaker closed by saying that at Christmas time they had in all the shops a notice, "This establishment will be closed on the 26th December." Just such a notice had gone out about the establishment of the Church of England—(cheers and hisses)—it was only for the English people to fill up the date. Though it might not be in the next decade, and not in this century, yet it would come. The century had only about twenty more years to run; and he ventured to say, "In the interests of the nation and of the Church, and of the holy religion which the Church serves, 'God, hasten the day.'" (Loud cheers.)

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS delivered the second address, which commenced with a notice of the charges of Principal Tulloch, *Blackwood's Magazine*, and the *Quarterly Review* against the Liberation Society. After referring to the legislative changes which it had helped to effect, and to the change of public opinion in regard to disestablishment, which the bishop of that diocese had admitted to have taken place, he (the speaker) asked whether it was likely that all this could have been effected by an institution the chosen weapons of which were calumny and falsehood? It was not to be expected that in assailing the Establishment they could use language which would be pleasing to the supporters of the Establishment. As to the alleged bitterness it certainly was not confined to one side. The journals supporting the Church wrote bitterly enough; but their bitterness was at the expense of Churchmen, and in regard to Church Congress literature the *Church Times* stated that dozens of men hanged for murder had never felt towards their victims the malice with which this literature seemed to reek. But there was a fact of more importance than this, and that was that many of the Establishment journals, and not a few of its members, now assented to many of the things that the Liberation Society was censured for saying some years ago; and this accounted, he thought, in a great measure, for the article in the *Quarterly Review*. The reviewer professed to believe that the Liberation Society represented only the wishes of a few Bradford manufacturers and wool combers; but perhaps had he been present at that meeting, he would have added, "and Nottingham lacemakers and hosiers." (Cheers and laughter.) The *Quarterly* article might be described as a compound of brimstone and treacle—the brimstone being intended for the Liberation Society and the treacle for the Ritualists, of whom that writer was evidently quite as much afraid as he was of the society; since it admitted that they were advocating disestablishment with a recklessness which was astounding. The society had now a powerful party within the Church, who, most of them being Tories, could not be classed with Radicals, revolutionists, and demagogues, but who were consciously or unconsciously working for the same end as themselves. (Cheers and counter cheers.) Yet there were some who asked whether the Establishment could not be maintained on practical, if not theoretical, grounds. They were asked whether it had not so far worked well? His answer was, "Look to the complaints made in the Church of England, and you will find ample evidence that, so far from everything working well, it is the most dissatisfied, distracted, and divided body in Christendom. (Applause and opposition cries.) Some of these complaining Churchmen wanted more liberty, but others said that there was already too much liberty, and that restraint was required. Some of them were for passing more Acts of Parliament, but others were eager to repeal those already passed. Some would have an appeal made to Parliament and to the electorate, while others protested against what they called so "mongrel" a body as the House of Commons interfering with the Church of England or, indeed, any Christian Church. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the Protestant portion of the Church, he said that he hoped that at Dr. Potter's lecture to be delivered on Friday, they would keep their ears open when they heard that the Church of England was the bulwark of Protestantism. The speaker then proceeded to prove the fallaciousness of that idea; dealing with the Church Association and the practical failure of its prosecutions. The Bishop of Oxford had put his finger upon the causes of this failure when he said that they were "not Gospel methods"; but the bishop must carry that principle a great deal further. He (the speaker) was thankful that the bishop and many others had learned one part of their lesson; they had now to persevere until the whole had been learned, and the principle they had so long advocated had been, not partially, but completely adopted. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. J. E. ELLIS then moved a resolution; after which the Rev. Dr. POTTER (Sheffield), who was sitting in the centre of the hall, intimated that he had some questions to put. Considerable excitement ensued, in the course of which hisses, groans, and cheers were given. After Mr. Potter had ascended the platform and spoken privately to the chairman, order was obtained. Mr. ISAAC SMITH, president of the Cobden Club, seconded the resolution, observing that it was one which had his hearty sympathies. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. POTTER then, in his usual peremptory manner, put several questions. Among them were these :—If it was difficult to interfere with the traffic in livings, was it not because patronage was property? Were not the Thirty-nine Articles Protestant, and were not those in the Church of England who were calling for disestablishment pro-Popish Ritualists? Were not the Churches of Asia Minor referred to in the Revelation in a worse condition than the Church of England now was? Was not the property in possession of that Church the result of voluntary gifts?

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, who was received with applause, stated that he might say, in reply, that he came there to address the people of Nottingham, and not to be catechised by Dr. Potter, and that that gentleman would have exercised greater discretion had he reserved what he had to say until next Friday night—("Oh, oh," and hisses)—but the questions were of so suggestive a kind that he would give such answers as were possible at that late hour. Dr. Potter said Church patronage was property, and so it was, and the greater the sin which rested upon the Church that the right of appointing spiritual guides of men was as much property as houses or land, cattle or sheep, and might be sold by auction! (Loud cheers.) He had asked if the Articles of the Church of England did not establish its Protestant character, and had talked of pro-Popish Ritualists. But what was the use of Protestant Articles if pro-Popish ministers found shelter in the Church Establishment, and none of the authorities could expel them? (Hear, hear.) They were referred to the Churches in Asia Minor, in order to show that their condition was a great deal worse than this established now, but he had only to remind them of the curse pronounced against some of those churches. (Applause.) They were told that property always came in. Of course it did, and it was introduced by Dr. Potter himself. (Loud cheers.) They knew what was called by sportsmen drawing the red-herring across the path, but he was not going to let Dr. Potter draw the herring across his path. He should not attempt at that late hour to deal with that question. He cared infinitely less about the property than Dr. Potter seemed to do. (Laughter.) Now they had heard all that that gentleman had to say that night, and they had the resolution before them, and he would confidently leave the result with the meeting. (Applause.)

Mr. ADAMS then announced that he intended to move an amendment, but he could not be heard for some time. Ultimately he moved, "That this

meeting pledges itself to use its utmost endeavours to frustrate the objects of the Liberation Society."

A person in the centre of the hall seconded the amendment, which was put and lost by a large majority, and the resolution was then carried unanimously, which closed the meeting.

THE REV. CHARLES WILLIAMS ON THE LIBERATION SOCIETY AND THE RITUALISTS.

The Rev. Chas. Williams, of Accrington, lectured at the Reform Club, Heywood, on Thursday last on the above subject, Mr. Joseph Porritt, of Bamford, presiding. The *Bury Times* gives a summary of his address on the subject, which, we need scarcely say, needs careful handling. We quote the following:—

Mr. Williams, in commencing his lecture, alluded to certain prosecutions which had taken place within the Church of England during the last few years, and which had settled certain great principles, including what was known as the "Gorham case," the prosecution against the seven writers of "The Essays and Reviews," and such men as Mr. Mackonochie and Mr. Tooth, and now the threatened prosecution of Mr. Carter, the incumbent of a parish church near Windsor, the object of the Church Association being to expel Ritualists from the Church of England. As citizens, whatever their individual opinion might be, they could not advocate such prosecutions. Although he was no apologist for what was known as sacerdotalism—there was no body of men whose influence he dreaded more than that of priests—yet at the same time he was an Englishmen; he liked fair play, and did not believe in partiality, and as a Liberal in politics he believed that all men should be dealt with on equal terms. (Applause.) Nay, he would go so far as to say that because he differed from a man he should therefore be particularly jealous lest he did him any wrong. (Hear, hear.) Their friends the Evangelicals had only to separate the Church and State, and then they and the Ritualists could fight out the questions between themselves, and none would interfere. But as it was, we were compelled to interfere, because we were much interested in the points in dispute. It was of considerable moment to us that the entire business of the Church should be conducted in the best possible manner. The Ritualists described the Church as one Catholic Church, maintaining that the only difference between it and the Church of Rome was in geographical position. The Ritualists maintained that the ministers in the Church of England were priests, and that after ordination by the bishop they received through the Holy Ghost power to forgive sins, and they also held that the Prayer Book sanctioned confession and absolution. These were the chief points upon which the Ritualists insisted, and they told us that the State should have no authority on religious matters. On this point we and the Ritualists were agreed; but at the same time he held that the man who would not submit to the authority of the State ought not to wear the State livery or eat the State bread. (Applause.) If the Church of England be a State Church, its fundamental doctrine must be that those who ministered in it should do so in subjection to the State. It must not be supposed that the Church effected what was called the Reformation in the sixteenth century. That Reformation, if effected at all, was effected by the State, historical proofs of which he advanced. Whilst not wishing to interfere with the liberty of the Ritualists, yet we considered it was not right for them to remain in the Church and try to set aside her authority. He could not understand such men as Dr. Pusey, who had received thousands to confession, and defended it by writing letters to the *Times*, not being called to account; he could not understand the policy of allowing him to escape, and prosecuting an aged and obscure man like Mr. Carter. He did not believe such prosecutions would ever succeed. The Church Association made a distinction between prosecution and persecution. If he were prosecuted on account of his religious views, put into prison, and ejected from his office in the Church, they might call it what they liked, but he should say that in his case prosecution would be very much like persecution, and that there was no more difference between them than between tweedledum and tweedledee. (Applause.) If they wished to destroy error they must do so by argument. If he wished that error should be arrested in its progress, he should be very careful not to do anything unfair, unjust, or unkind; by all means let them meet error by fair argument, as it could not be put down by physical force. He deprecated those prosecutions, and he would say to the Evangelical clergymen, "If you cannot answer the arguments and give a better reason for your faith, you had better abandon the conflict, and acknowledge yourselves overcome." He should like to know if all those prosecutions had arrested the progress of Ritualism. Some of them might perhaps remember the sensation caused by the publication of "Tracts for the Times," and how the newspapers took the matter up, and cried out that the Church was in danger. The Ritualists were afraid of this, and hid themselves for a time; but that prosecution served their purpose, and from that time until now they had steadily increased their influence and multiplied their numbers. If we did not want this thing to go on in the Church, he would earnestly say, "Pray don't prosecute the Ritualists; if you cannot answer them by fair argument, hold your peace, and go about your own work, and do it as well as you can." (Applause.) As a more excellent way he pleaded for disestablishment. He and the audience were at present compromised by the position in which it placed the ministers of the Church of England. He would not dismiss the Ritualists from the Church, any more than he would dismiss the Evangelicals, but to all of them he would say, "We are weary of your quarrels and of your ecclesiastical wrangling; we will take from you the office you hold and the national endowments by which you are sustained, for these were never intended for sectarian purposes, and you shall do just as you please—you must be maintained henceforth by the resources of your co-religionists, but not from those of the nation. (Hear, hear.) "Yes," it was said, "but this is a very drastic method of dealing with the Ritualists"; but he maintained it was a method which was fair all round, and the way in which the Nonconformists were at present dealt with. What objection could there be to it? There would be liberty to one and all. Let thought be free and speech be as free as thought, and all through the land let each man, unfettered by the State, speak and act as he thought best. The Bishop of Manchester—of whom he spoke in eulogistic terms—pleaded for the establishment of the Church on the ground that, if destroyed, it would destroy the harmony among Christians. He (Mr. Williams) could not see much harmony amongst them; he did not think there was much love lost between the Church Association and those who spoke from the platform of the English Church Union. If he were bound to live with another man in the same house he should like to live with one whom he respected, and not with a man whom he denounced every day in his life. In the Church there were all sorts of parties, bickering, quarrelling, and wrangling, and in the interests of peace he said, "Loose them, and let them go their several ways." Replying to the assertion made by Evangelicals and others that they wanted to rob the poor man of his Church, and that if the Church were disestablished the poor would not have the means of worship, and the Gospel would not be preached to them, he would ask if that was true? He would like to know whether the ministers of the Church were ministers of the Queen or of King Jesus, and if the Queen dismissed them if they could no longer serve King Jesus. If so, he considered they were not worthy of the service in which they were engaged. (Applause.) He contended that the Church of England was more a rich man's Church than a poor man's, and if rich men could not support it and pay for their ministers, like the Primitive Methodists and other denominations, there was only one conclusion he could come to, and that was that they had no religion to support. (Applause.) Referring to the establishment of the Church of England Disestablishment League by the Ritualists, he said he regarded that as one of the signs of the times that the movement for the disestablishment of the Church was commencing in the Church itself, Archdeacon Denison having come to the conclusion that that was the only solution of this great problem. The lecturer then proceeded to refer to an article in a recent number of the *Nineteenth Century* by Mr. Mackonochie, in which he drafted a bill for the disestablishment of the Church from the 1st of January, 1881; but he (Mr. Williams) had no faith that disestablishment would so soon be accomplished as that, nor did he agree with the manner in which it was proposed that it should be effected. He pointed out that the property administered for the benefit of the Church amounted to 163,000,000*l.*, a portion of which he proposed should be devoted to the education of the children of the poor, and part to the relief of the poor, for which tithes were first collected. When they held to their principles they should also go in for the State dealing equally to all. Although Mr. Disraeli in his last great speech in the House of Commons said "equality is opposed to the English Constitution," yet he (the lecturer) did not believe it.

Upon the motion of the Rev. R. Storry, seconded by Mr. B. Buckley, a vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer, and a similar compliment to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

OTHER MEETINGS.

FAVERSHAM.—On January 29 Mr. Fisher addressed a fairly-attended meeting in the Lecture Hall, East-street, Mr. B. G. Berry presided, and introduced the lecturer to the audience in a very appropriate speech. Mr. Fisher was listened to throughout his lecture with marked interest and attention. The usual votes of thanks brought the proceedings of the evening to a close.

HUTTON CRANSWICK, NEAR DRIFFIELD. — On Monday, January 27, Mr. J. Andrew, of Leeds, gave a lecture in the Odd Fellows' Hall, on "The Work of the Liberation Society: What it wants, and what it does not want," Mr. T. D. Whitaker, of Driffield, presided. The room was filled. Two questions were put and answered. This was the first lecture in this village, and excited much interest. The tracts of the society were eagerly received.

DRIFFIELD.—Mr. Andrew delivered a lecture in the Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening, Jan. 20, subject, "What the Society wants, and what it does not want." The lecturer was supported by the Revs. C. Welton, and J. J. Martin, Mr. D. Railton, and Mr. D. Maynard, the latter gentleman being called upon to preside. The lecturer, after referring to his former visits to Driffield, discussed at some length one of the greatest and most important questions of the day. The society was formed in 1844, and since that time a mighty work had been accomplished. Mr. Railton proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, and the Rev. C. Welton, in seconding the motion, said the Established Church was contrary to the laws of Jesus Christ, and to the teachings of justice and common-sense; and the Saviour distinctly disclaimed anything like a State-Church when He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." Mr. Henry Angas, one of the Council of the Society, supported the motion, which was carried. The chairman was also thanked for presiding.

DARWEN.—The Rev. J. Browne, B.A., addressed a meeting in the Bolton-road Reform Club, on Tuesday last. Mr. W. T. Ashton in the chair. The subject was that apparently favourite one for Lancashire audiences, "The Clergy State Paid." Mr. Browne went through the whole subject with great care, and the meeting, on the motion of the Rev. J. McDougall, accorded him a vote of thanks. On Wednesday Mr. Browne lectured in the Lower Chapel, Mr. Councillor Lightbourn presiding. His subject here was "Benefits of Disestablishment and Disendowment," and it was treated with great succinctness and comprehensiveness.

CHATTERIS, CAMBS.—This town was visited by Mr. Lummis on Wednesday, when he delivered his lecture in the Corn Exchange, on "The Merchandise of Souls." The Rev. E. Griffith presided. The lecture was heard with much interest, and an advertisement of the recent sale of the sequestered living of the parish, when read by the lecturer, created considerable sensation, some of the audience being strongly indignant that they had so lately been bought and sold "like flocks of sheep or droves of pigs." There was no opposition, and a resolution was carried with but one dissentient.

GOSPEL OAK.—On Thursday last Mr. Kearley delivered an address in the Lecture Hall here on the "Political Aspects of the Disestablishment Question," Mr. F. Y. Edwards in the chair. There was a good attendance, and the lecture was very cordially received. At the close there was an interesting discussion, one gentleman present, a deacon of a Nonconformist church, defending the Establishment, though, as it was suggested, rather for the purpose of raising a discussion than from actual sympathy with it. Hearty speeches on the other side were thus called forth, and the meeting concluded with a most complimentary vote of thanks to Mr. Kearley.

DR. MELLOR ON WYCLIFFE AND HIS TIMES.

The first of a course of lectures on Nonconformity was given on Thursday evening in the Mechanics' Hall, Halifax, by the Rev. E. Mellor, D.D. The chair was occupied by Mr. Thomas Wayman, J.P., who was supported by several ministers and gentlemen, including the Revs. Dale, Smith, Michael, Townsend, Bailey, Brown, and Dyson; Alderman Bairstow, Councillors Kerr, Ramsden, Brown, and Binns. The hall was crowded.

Mr. Wayman, after a brief speech, introduced the lecturer. Presuming that the lecture, which is well reported in the *Halifax Courier*, will be delivered elsewhere, we will not copy the report, but we may quote a part of the concluding passage:—

John Wycliffe was one of those men (continued Dr. Mellor) whose whole nature is prophetic—more prophetic, indeed, than ever they themselves imagine. They sound the key-note of coming harmonies, little dreaming what those harmonies will be. And it is well that with all their genius there should also be a merciful unconsciousness of what may be the history and the end of their teaching. The principles they expound contain issues far beyond their dreaming or desire, and they are often led on little by little by a way that they know not, sometimes surprised at the direction in which their principles are conducting them. Few men would undertake to be reformers if they could foresee from the beginning all that the reformation would come to be. It was Luther's ignorance as much as Luther's conviction which made him the hero of the reformation of the sixteenth century. Little by little he was to advance onwards, little by little one truth was to dawn over and beyond another, as hills peep over hills to the climbing traveller; little by little his eyes were to be opened to his errors; little by little strength was to come to him for all he had to do and to endure. He thought he was only attacking a wen on the body of the Romish Church when he sent his knife slashing through the indulgences which Tetzel was proclaiming, but behold, instead of a wen it was seen to be a cancerous tumour, whose roots went inward to the vital organs of the whole system, and one by one he denounced and renounced the worship of saints and relics, purgatory, masses, papal supremacy, justification by works, and all the distinctive dogmas of the Romish Church. This was also the history of Wycliffe, who began by exposing the friars, but who ended by the adoption of every main principle which distinguishes the Nonconformity of these modern times. He repudiated the hierarchy and declared that in the Apostolic Church there were only two orders of officers—the minister and the deacon. He denied that the power of excommunication and absolution lay in the hands of priests, and denounced it as an impious invasion of the prerogatives of Christ. He maintained that the ministry of the Gospel is to be supported by the voluntary contributions of the people, and not by forced exactions either in the shape of tithes or dues levied on the ignorance and superstition of the people. And he claimed for every man the indefeasible right and duty of reading and interpreting as best he may the oracles of God, not muffled in a foreign or dead tongue, but speaking in his own. We are living in days of reaction—reaction in the sphere of politics by which popular liberty is being systematically overshadowed by the threatening spectre of imperialism, and reaction in the sphere of religion by the revival of a mediæval priesthood which, with the prestige and wealth of a Protestant Church, is betraying the nation. It is in the face of these things that we now challenge public attention in this course of lectures, convinced that the time has fully come when alike in the interests of patriotism, liberty, and religion, a stedfast resistance must be made to all endeavours to restore the reign of despotism and of darkness from which we had fain hoped that we had escaped for ever.

Dr. Mellor was frequently interrupted by outbursts of applause, and resumed his seat amid loud and sustained cheering.

In acknowledging the vote of thanks which was very heartily carried, Dr. Mellor spoke of the malpractices in the Church of the present day, adding that sometimes friends told him he was unduly alarmed about these things. He remembered some years ago a very intelligent friend, after hearing him lecture, expressed such an opinion, but subsequently told him (Dr. Mellor) he was then perfectly convinced his alarm was more than justified. Let them rise at once, then, and tell all and sundry they were not going back to the days of bondage; let them make no difference whoever might seek to lead them astray, for truth and freedom were higher than men and women.

ECCLESIASTICAL MISCELLANY.

M. Geoffroi, Old Catholic curé of Courtemaiche, has re-entered the Roman Catholic Church. A special pastoral from Bishop Lachat expresses the hope that other heretical priests of the Bernese Jura will be persuaded to follow the example.

The Church of England has, says the *Globe*, lost a valued benefactress by the death of Mrs. Brook,

of Enderby Hall, Leicestershire, which took place on Monday evening. The deceased lady was the widow of Mr. Charles Brook. It has been estimated that their joint benefactions to the Church amount to no less than 140,000*l.*

Mr. Newdegate, M.P., speaking at Coventry on Thursday, said in these days it was essential that the work of the incumbents of the Church of England should be supplemented by the efforts of the laity. They had only to look at the organisation of rival denominations to understand that in not employing her laity the Church was throwing away one of her great powers.

THE LATE REV. J. H. GORDON.—The subscription list of the fund raised for the widow and family of Mr. Gordon has now been closed. The amount received is 1,171*l.* 7s. 11d. The sum of 902*l.* 6s. 4d. has been invested in East Indian Railway Stock and Middlesbro' Corporation Mortgages. Mrs. Gordon's pressing needs have been met out of the remainder, and a balance is reserved to "supplement the interest yielded by the invested funds and for special purposes."

ST. JAMES'S, HATCHAM.—Divine service was held twice on Sunday at St. James's, Hatcham, the vicar, Mr. Walker, officiating. No disturbance occurred. A cross and two candlesticks had been placed above the communion table, and prior to morning service Mr. Saunders, the churchwarden, entered the vestry and gave a note to the vicar, which announced his intention of presenting him to the bishop for having replaced the ornaments in defiance of the bishop's order. A number of working men from St. Alban's, Holborn, attended the service.

BISHOPS AND PRIESTS IN FRANCE.—A remarkable pamphlet has appeared in France, in which a number of anonymous priests of the down-trodden Gallican party raise a most pitiful cry as to the situation of the lower clergy under the fierce and intolerant rule of the Ultramontane bishops. They declare that the oppression is even greater than it was under the old *régime*, and that there is no justice in France for the priest, who is at the absolute mercy of his bishop.

CANON BARDSLEY, the vicar of St. Anne's, Manchester, has tendered his resignation, after a laborious ministerial career of forty-five years. He has had seven sons in holy orders, two of whom have died in the mission-field abroad and one at home. He has been the means of enlisting in the Church's service some thirty or more young men, finding a large proportion of the money necessary to train them for their office. Efforts are being made to purchase an annuity, the endowment of St. Anne's allowing only a small retiring pension.

THE NEW CANON OF ST. PAUL'S.—The Rev. William Stubbs, Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford, has been appointed by the Queen to the canonry at St. Paul's, vacant by the elevation of the Rev. Dr. Lightfoot to the bishopric of Durham. He is well known in the literary world, his most important works being "The Constitutional History of England," "Registrum Sacrum Anglicanum," "The Memorials of St. Dunstan," and "Select Charters and other Illustrations of English Constitutional History, from the Earliest Period to the Reign of Edward I.," &c. He is a member of numerous learned societies.

FATHER HYACINTHE, in a letter to the Archbishop of Paris, apprises him of the opening of a Gallican Catholic church next Sunday, and expresses regret that the religious system temporarily triumphant in France obliges the successor of St. Denis to condemn as heretical the doctrines which were long the strength and glory of the French Church. After explaining his resort in these circumstances to a neighbouring church, Catholic, though reformed, and quoting the sanction of the Scotch Primus, he adds that whenever the successor of St. Denis utters in the Church of Paris no other teaching than that of St. Denis, he will have no more submissive followers then they, and already, despite the gulf created between his conscience and theirs, he has none who profess a deeper respect for himself and his see, or who pray with more fervour for the great interests which are confided to him.

THE CHURCH ASSOCIATION AND THE BISHOP OF OXFORD.—A reply has been forwarded to the letter of the Bishop of Oxford, dated the 18th ult., by the chairman of the Church Association, denying the charge of "glorying in and having an appetite for condemnations." "But," says the writer, "we claim sympathy from all true members of our Church, and especially from those called 'to the work and ministry of a bishop,' who are pledged not only 'with all faithful diligence to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine,' but 'both privately and openly to call upon and encourage others to the same.' The aims and end of the Sacerdotal school have long been proclaimed by their leaders, and, being fully understood, have been denounced by archbishops and bishops. Suffice it to remind your lordship of the declaration of Dr. Pusey, that Sacerdotal and Protestant principles cannot blend and cannot live long together. One must secure the mastery, and then the other will be expelled."

CHURCH STATISTICS.—A controversy has arisen concerning the increase of accommodation for religious worship provided by the several religious bodies since 1851. Nearly all such statistics are necessarily defective, but we can furnish a reliable Church estimate of Church provision. This appears in the Church Calendar for 1879, where the population of England and Wales is put down as *circa* 24,000,000, and the present number of sittings at *circa* 6,000,000. This is followed by details of the several dioceses, including number of churches, sittings, and clergy in each, which could only have been obtained from official sources. Now, the population of England and Wales in 1851 was 18,070,735, and the number of sittings provided by the Established Church 5,317,915, or twenty-nine per cent. of the population. The number now provided is estimated as above at only twenty-five per cent. of the population. We should add that these figures appear in seventeen diocesan calendars, viz:—Canterbury, Carlisle, Chester, Chichester, Durham, Ely, Gloucester, Lichfield, Lincoln, London, Norwich, Oxford, Ripon, St. Albans, Winchester, Worcester, and York—all officially corrected.—*Liberator*.

WORK FOR THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—The Russian Government is very anxious about the remarkable spread of the Molakani sect in the southern provinces. The religious tenets of these dissenters are not strictly defined, but they acknowledge no spiritual guidance except that of the Holy Scriptures, taken in a broad and spiritual sense according to the reader's own understanding, and, in many minor details, bear a strong resemblance to the Presbyterians. They are believed to number 100,000 souls, are honest, moral, and thrifty, and in every respect present a remarkable contrast to the improvident, unprincipled, Orthodox peasants and their drunken "popes" or priests by whom they are surrounded. For years the Government has been at pains to check the progress of these Protestants by active persecution, and at the present moment the jails of Kharkoff and Kieff contain numerous members of the sect, whose only crime consists in that they refuse to attend the parish church, and particularly abhor the signing of the cross and the veneration of sacred images. Finding imprisonment no good in checking the movement, an attempt is now to be made to remove the heresy out of the midst of Russia by assisting or compelling a migration of the Molakani to Armenia. Officials, we are assured, have already arrived at Tamboff to carry this measure into effect, and we can only trust that Mr. Gladstone will use his best efforts to prevent a recurrence of the scenes of cruelty that marked the exile of the Stundists (Russian Evangelical Christians) to Siberia three or four years ago.—*Examiner*.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN AND THE WESLEYANS.—A Louth correspondent writes as follows to the *Daily News*:—A few days ago we heard of the liberal sentiments of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, as expressed in a letter forwarded by him written in Greek and English, to the Archbishop of Cyprus. I should like your readers to contrast the contents of this letter with those contained in the following one, premising that an application had been made by the churchwarden's lady, living in Yarburgh, near Louth, to the vicar of the parish for the use of the church schoolroom in which to hold a Wesleyan tea-meeting. The vicar, of course, dare not grant the privilege without asking the advice of his master, which is given thus:—

"Riseholme, Lincoln, Nov. 20, 1878.

My dear Sir,—It is greatly to be regretted that, whereas Holy Scripture is very plain and emphatic in its declarations on the blessings of unity and on the sin and unhappiness of religious divisions, there should be so many persons who set at naught those precepts and warnings, and who violate unity and encourage divisions. But, whatever they do, it is clearly our duty to speak to them the language of truth, in love, and to tell them that we cannot be partakers with them in their breach of unity and in their encouragement of division, and that we should be untrue to this Church, and even to them, if we did so; and therefore I am of opin on that you ought not to lend a Church schoolroom for the promotion of Wesleyan Methodism in your parish. You are at liberty to forward a copy of this letter, with my kind regards, to the wife of the churchwarden.

I am, &c.

C. LINCOLN."

The correspondent adds that both the parish churchwarden (Mr. D. Hay) and his wife are Wesleyans.

THE DEAN OF ST. ASAPH ON THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.—At the reopening of Henllan parish church, near Denbigh, on Friday last, Dean Bonner preached from the text, Matt. xxiv., 1, 2. After dilating upon the spread of infidel principles as one of the dangers to "our beloved Church," he spoke of the threatening aspect of the times, and said that it was not well to think "lightly of the systematic and increasing efforts of those enemies of our Church," the Liberation Society, who were "organising a more powerful and determined attack upon it than had ever yet been attempted. They were probably aware" he continued, "that this society, in conjunction with infidels and political Dissenters, had raised a large fund (not less than 100,000*l.* it was said) for the express purpose of disestablishing and disendowing the National Church. They sent forth agents throughout the length and breadth of the land to prejudice the public mind and influence the masses by their fallacies and false statements, in hopes that at some future time the Legislature might be induced to destroy the national recognition of Christianity by the severance of Church and State. From the example of Nehemiah and Ezra the dean drew the lesson that in these days it was necessary that Churchmen should join in Church defence as well as Church restoration. "It had been said, if the Church was doing her duty she needed no defence; and most true it was that her greatest danger arose from false brethren within, rather than from open enemies without. And yet we must not shut our eyes to the fact that if the public mind was permitted to be poisoned, year after year, by means of lectures, public addresses, pamphlets, and tracts full of misstatements respecting the Church, its history, and endowments, without any explanation or reply, the time would not be far distant when a Parliament would be elected pledged to the disestablishment and disendowment of the National Church, whereas, if the Church Defence Institution had the support from Churchmen which it deserved, the calumnies and misstatements propagated by the Liberation Society would in every case be refuted by able advocates, and there would be no fear, under the circumstances, that truth would prevail." [We quite agree with the reverend gentleman. *Veritas prevalebit.* Is there not some one specific misstatement, however, of the Liberation Society which the Dean might himself correct?—ED.]

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.—A "Quaker" writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—The question of the greater longevity of the members of the Society of Friends than that of the population in which they are placed is one of considerable interest; and the citation of some figures throwing additional light on it may be useful. In addition to the annual tabular statements of the incomings by births and outgoings by death, valuable facts may be gathered from the working of the assurance company which exists for assuring the lives of friends and those connected with them. A short time ago an elaborate table was drawn up from all available sources, from which the deduction was made that the mean future life (or expectation of life) at birth was in the case of a male "Friend" about 45·34 years, the mean among the general public being 40·36. In the case of females, the difference was not quite so large—that of the "Friend" being 45·72 and that of the general public 42·16. But the average life of the Quakers is above that of the mean value, it having varied in recent years from slightly over fifty-one years to fifty-eight years. A summary and analysis of the age at death of members who have died, for more than thirty years, show that out of 943 deaths there were 163 of persons under the age of thirty at death, 224 of persons who died between thirty and sixty, 517 whose decease occurred between the ages of sixty and ninety, and 39 who died at the age of ninety or above, three being reputed centenarians. All attainable facts prove that there is a greater longevity among the Quakers than other persons; but there is great room for very great speculation as to its causes and as to the probabilities of its continuance. It is far from generally known (the writer adds) that the decline in numbers in the Society of Friends has been for many years arrested, and a comparatively rapid rate of growth has been experienced. In 1864 the number of members in Great Britain was 13,755; and for some years that number was not increased by more than half-a-dozen or so yearly, and that even was an improvement on the decrease that had been known for some years previously. In the decade ending with 1868 there was no addition to the number of members—the deaths outnumbering the births, and the incoming by other methods barely supplying the deficiency. In the decade ending with 1878 the death-rate has still been higher than the births, but the influx of members has more than counterbalanced the loss; and thus the total number of members is raised to about 14,600—the increase having been the most marked during the later years.

The *Manchester Guardian* says that an invention by which, it is said, iron and steel of a superior class can be manufactured from ores of an inferior description, has just been patented in this and other countries. In the Cleveland district the invention is considered to be one of great importance, and likely to lead to a revival of the iron trade in that part of the country.

Mr. Micaiah John Muller Hill, of St. Peter's College, who is bracketed with Messrs. Gunston and Wallis as fourth wrangler in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos List, is the son of the Rev. S. J. Hill, of Berhampore, Bengal. He was educated at the School for Sons of Missionaries at Blackheath, whence he obtained the fourth place (first prize) in the London Matriculation Examination, and an Andrew's entrance prize at University College, London. He is a Master of Arts, Gold Medallist Scholar, Exhibitioner, and Assistant-Examiner in Mathematics in the University of London; a Fellow of University College, and was first in the open Competition for the Civil Service of India in 1875. He obtained an open Scholarship at St. Peter's College in 1875. His college tutors were the present master (Mr. Porter) and tutor of Peterhouse (Mr. Dickson); his private tutor, Mr. Routh.

The late Dr. Frederick Foster Quin, whose collection of works of art, &c. was sold the other day at Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods, has left the bulk of his fortune, amounting to about 17,000*l.*, to the London Homœopathic Hospital, Great Ormond-street, of which he was the founder. Dr. Quin also bequeaths 200*l.* and his valuable medical library to the Homœopathic Society.

Of the eleven ladies entered for matriculation at the London University, nine have passed.

We learn from a Wolverhampton paper that Mr. R. F. Horton, B.A., whose election to a fellowship at Oxford we noticed last week, was a pupil at Tettenhall College, where he attained the proud position of premier boy in all England, in connection with the Cambridge local examinations in the junior classes, and the following year was third in all England in the seniors. He was, it appears, succeeded, as president of the Oxford Union, by his friend, Mr. Meicklain, B.A., who is also a Dissenter.

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The TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING of this Society will be held on TUESDAY, 11th instant, at the MEMORIAL HALL, FARRINGDON STREET, E.C.

Chair to be taken at 6.30 p.m. by JOSIAS ALEXANDER, Esq., Treasurer.

Addresses by the Revs. W. Cuthbertson, B.A., Chairman of the Congregational Union; Henry Simon, Westminster; G. Martin, Lewisham; T. Aveling, D.D., Kingsland; J. S. Russell, M.A., Bayswater; and other gentlemen. No collection.

February, 1879. J. C. GALLAWAY, Secretary.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL.—Senior School, Haverstock Hill; Junior School (Alexandra Orphanage), Hornsey-rise; Convalescent Home, Margate.

President—H.R.H. the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, K.G.

At the 121st Annual General Court of Governors, held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C., on Thursday, Jan. 30, 1879, the following FORTY-ONE CHILDREN were declared to be ELECTED, subject to a scrutiny being demanded before Tuesday, Feb. 4, 1879; John Kemp Welch, Esq., J.P., Treasurer, in the chair:—

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The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and scrutineers for their conduct of the election.

JONADAB FINCH, Secretary.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1879.

THE WEEK.

THE event of the week has been the rapid and pacific political revolution in France. Owing to personal feeling, and a natural but perilous misconception of the relations of the army to the Cabinet and the Legislature, Marshal MacMahon, though urged by so Conservative a statesman as M. Dufaure, refused to sign the decree removing some of the generals from the chief commands, and quietly resigned his position as President of the Republic in a dignified and touching message. Within a few hours the two Chambers, in a combined meeting, as prescribed by the Constitution, elected M. Grévy as his successor—seven years being the term—by 563 votes to 99 given (against his will) in favour of General Chanzy—a result which sent up the Funds, and was welcomed with enthusiasm throughout the country. Next day the Deputies chose M. Gambetta their President in the place of M. Grévy by 314 votes against 67 blanks and 24 scattered votes; and thus the chief founder of the Republic exchanges his position as a leader for that of a high official, whose function it will be to control all political parties. The venerable Prime Minister, who is more than fourscore years of age, having guided the nation through what might have been a perilous crisis, could not be persuaded by the new President to retain office, and retires in the zenith of his popularity. M. Waddington, who, like himself, is a Conservative Republican, and who, during these critical times, has gained a high reputation at the Foreign Office, was called upon to form a new administration. The task, which has not been an easy one, has been completed. The Premier will continue to act as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and four of his old colleagues, M. de Marcère, M. Léon Say, M. de Freycinet, and General Gresley, will serve under him. The other members of the Cabinet are chosen from the pure Left—M. Lepère, the new Minister of Commerce, having, unlike his predecessor, a leaning in favour of free trade. It is not expected that the new Cabinet, five of whose members are Protestants, will be long-lived, although M. Gambetta's influence is expected to be used in its favour.

Afghanistan is in a state of anarchy. According to an official telegram, civil war has broken out in Cabul. Yakoob Khan, who had previously distinctly declined to accede to the demands of Lord Lytton, is shelling Chandol, the Kizilbash portion of the city, from which numerous sirdars are withdrawing; and various chiefs are in open conflict with each other—not a few of them, such as the son of Mir Akhor and Wali Mahomed, the Ameer's half brother, having submitted to the British generals. It is thought that Wali, who with a number of Ghilzai chiefs is now in General Roberts's camp, is an aspirant for the throne of Afghanistan under British protection. For some days there have been persistent reports of the death of Shere Ali in Turkestan, which are mentioned in the last official telegram from Lahore, but there is no reliable information on the subject. The other news from the frontier is not cheering. Convoys do not arrive at Candahar, supplies are scanty, the commissariat arrangements in the rear "deplorable," and our troops are "beginning to weary of the monotony and hardships of the campaign," while the population "are sulky and inclined to be insolent." General Roberts, having without provocation carried fire and sword into the Khost valley, has been obliged precipitately to withdraw his garrisons, in consequence of the threats of the Mangals.

The public will wait with curiosity the statement of the Ministerial leaders in both Houses of Parliament relative to the Eastern Question. At the Lord Mayor's banquet on Nov. 9th Lord Beaconsfield said the progress made in carrying out the Treaty of Berlin was satisfactory, and that time only was required to bring its stipulations into force. Though three months have since elapsed, next to nothing has been done in that direction. Even the special Convention between Russia and the Porte, which is expected to pave the way for a settlement, has not yet been signed, and the Czar's forces occupy the same Turkish territory as was in their possession in November. Podgoritza and the other places ceded to Montenegro are still in Mussulman hands. The Porte is still playing with the Greek frontier question, and is resolved not to surrender Janina, the capital of Thessaly, which comes within the limits marked out by the Berlin Congress. Recent correspondence in the *Times* reveals the anarchy which obtains in Asiatic Turkey, where nothing has been done to initiate the promised reforms, and Midhat Pasha, the Governor-General of Syria, tells M. Malet that it would be difficult to execute them, and complains that his comprehensive reforms have not yet received the sanction of the Sultan and his Ministers. Even the urgent financial question remains as it was. Some French capitalists are, it is true, negotiating with the Porte for a loan of eight millions sterling, secured on the Customs duties, the future Bulgarian tribute, the amount received from Cyprus, and the portion of the Turkish debt to be paid by Montenegro, Servia, and Bulgaria; but that amount, if advanced, would only partially help the Sultan out of his financial perplexities.

The difficulties in respect to Bulgaria and Roumelia multiply as time goes on. The Bulgarian Assembly, which is to frame an administrative scheme and elect a Prince, is from time to time postponed, and, according to report, awaits the arrival of deputies from Roumelia to raise the question of the union of the two Principalities. South of the Balkans all is confusion. The European Commission can do nothing; the adult male population are being everywhere armed and drilled—no doubt with Russian connivance—and the foreign Consuls express the opinion that it will be impossible for the Turkish troops to return to Roumelia and the Balkans, and that there is every prospect that the government imposed upon the population of Roumelia by the Berlin Congress will meet with a general passive resistance. The Powers cannot agree upon a joint occupation, and the Russian officers openly proclaim that insurrection will follow the withdrawal of their troops. Here, then, is the grand problem which will test the wisdom of the arrangement imposed by Lord Beaconsfield upon Russia and sanctioned by the Berlin Congress. How are Bulgaria and Roumelia to be kept apart? If they cannot, what becomes of our Prime Minister's claim to far-seeing statesmanship?

An article in this morning's *Times* very distinctly indicates that the negotiations between the Government and the Irish Roman Catholic hierarchy have been broken off in consequence of the impracticable demands of the latter, who have peremptorily pronounced the scheme of a central examining board "not only insufficient but inadmissible," and adhere to their demand for an endowment of the Roman Catholic University. Even Lord Beaconsfield does not see his way to carry such a reversal of the policy of 1869, though, as the *Times* says, "State endowment is a Conservative principle." The failure of Mr. Gladstone's ill-fated University Bill of 1873 is a warning not to be disregarded, and, says the *Times*, "we cannot expect that the Government should raise questions provocative of partisan and sectarian passion, with no visible prospect of any useful result." We dare say the Irish Catholics expect their opportunity will come with a general election, and that rival parties will *then* be ready enough to bid for their support.

In the speech delivered at the Liberal demonstration at Ipswich last week, Mr. Fawcett, M.P., not only made some remarks, equally wise and serviceable just now, on the Irish University question and adverse to denominational education—words which will be found quoted elsewhere—but he spoke with emphasis on the subject of electional policy. We quote entire his remarks on the subject:—

> I believe it is not more certain that the sun will rise to-morrow morning than it is that the Government will have an increased majority, if, in the coming election, instead of showing some consideration to each other's difference of opinion, we are all determined to strive to get our own way—if, for instance, some won't vote because a particular candidate is not in favour of the Permissive Bill; if others keep aloof because a particular candidate who is brought forward is not a direct representative of labour; and if others show no interest in the contest because the Liberal candidate who may be chosen is not prepared immediately to pledge himself in favour of the disestablishment of the Church.

The time is perhaps somewhat far off when the accuracy of this prophecy will be tested, but much may be done, and is being done, in the way of preparation for the contest that "looms in the distance." The early choice of reliable Liberal candidates will go far to avert the disunion which Mr. Fawcett dreads. The judicious decision of Sir Wilfrid Lawson practically takes the Permissive Bill *per se* from the category of "test" questions; the courageous advice of Mr. Burt, M.P., who disapproves of labour candidates *per se*, will, if followed, remove an obstacle out of the way of the Liberal party; and there need be no fear, after the recent conference at Leeds, that the supporters of the Liberation movement will make the disestablishment of the English Church a cause of division at the next general election.

The definite consent of Mr. Gladstone to contest the county of Midlothian at the next general election is a political event. It is a courageous decision worthy of the great Liberal statesman, from which he has not been deterred by the feeble protest of Sir John Don Wauchope and a few other malcontent electors, who profess to distrust Mr. Gladstone on Protestant grounds. In accepting the invitation to stand for Midlothian, which has been the result of much deliberation, Mr. Gladstone says he is satisfied from the facts laid before him that it "expresses the desire of a majority of the constituency." Still the contest, whenever it comes, must be a keen one. He will have to encounter the powerful local influence of the Duke of Buccleuch, whose son at present occupies the seat for Edinburghshire, with the Government at his back; and apparently there will be no scruple in the wholesale manufacture of faggot votes. Principal Tulloch, it will be seen, warns the ex-Prime Minister to steer clear of the disestablishment question, or the Liberal party will go to pieces. Idle menace! As his address indicates, Mr. Gladstone regards it as his chief mission to challenge the foreign policy of the Government. But when the time comes, he will assuredly repeat the views expressed last session, that the Scotch Establishment is doomed whenever the people of Scotland demand it. His candidature for Midlothian goes far to give the question that prominence in the Liberal programme which the Leeds Conference a fortnight ago requested of the Liberal leaders, while his return for that county would ensure that result.

The drink traffic question is likely to command great attention during the coming session. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, by substituting for his Permissive Bill a resolution affirming the principle of local control over licences, has secured increased and powerful support. The Church of England Temperance Society, which has a widely-extended organisation, has resolved to give its hearty co-operation to the hon. baronet, who will also receive the support of Mr. John Bright. Mr. Forster, no sentimental statesman, has also given in his adhesion to the resolution. In a speech delivered at Bradford on Saturday the right hon. gentleman announced, speaking for himself alone, that though he was unable to vote in favour of prohibition, he thought the concession to the inhabitants of a locality, through their representatives, of a power to restrain the renewal and the issue of licences was just and safe, and that this local control would tend to preserve order and promote sobriety. That, he thinks, would perhaps

do as much as can be done by law, to check the tremendous evil of drunkenness. There is reason to hope that this perplexing problem is, so far as the Legislature is concerned, entering upon a new and more hopeful phase. It would be absurd to expect much sympathy with Sir Wilfrid's resolution, which is to be moved on the 11th of March, from a House of Commons that so largely represents the publican interest; but we may look forward to a weighty debate, which will have its effect upon public opinion, if not to a close division.

Much surprise has been expressed at what is generally considered the lenient sentence passed upon the convicted directors and manager of the City of Glasgow Bank. This arises from the nature of the indictment under which they were tried, and from the charge of embezzlement having been withdrawn. It was felt that this charge could not be sustained by the evidence; although, if another charge of conspiracy had been made, it is difficult to see how escape was possible. But, after all, the real nature of the punishment is not to be estimated by the duration of eight or eighteen months in prison. The fact alone means social infamy and ruin for life; and in the case of some of the accused, it must be remembered that they have already passed the average age of man. The exposure itself is a terrible disgrace, and the more so that all the culprits moved in good society, and some of them held trusted positions in churches.

The pleasing prospect in which many persons have been indulging of a fall in the price of meat, owing to the increased importations from the United States and Canada, seems likely to be clouded by the news of an outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia in a cargo of cattle brought to Liverpool last week from Portland, in Maine. It was hoped at first that the malady was not of the nature so justly dreaded, and to stamp out which this country has gone to so heavy a cost. But two veterinary surgeons employed by the Privy Council to inspect the lungs of the slaughtered animals have found indubitable signs of the disease. Whether the cattle thus infected came from the States or from Canada is not at present known; but it is announced that the Privy Council have the whole matter under consideration, and will speedily issue orders respecting future consignments. Two other vessels have arrived since with cattle, which are declared to be free from disease, and the hope is cherished that the aggravated cases on the steamer Ontario are to be accounted for by the exceptional weather during the transit, both across the Atlantic and on the railroads from the West. While it is proper to take wise precautions, nothing should be done to engender panic, of which interested parties would promptly take advantage to force up prices by artificial means.

The progress of the plague in Russia continues to be watched with intense anxiety on the Continent, and rigorous measures have been taken to check its incursions into other countries. Medical authorities now seem to be agreed that it is the dreaded "black death" of the Middle Ages, which is regarded as most virulent and difficult to be treated. It has broken out in some fresh districts in Astrachan, at considerable distances from the original places, although both official and private reports concur in stating that the fatalities are now fewer. It appears that the Russian Government have resolved to burn the village of Wetlianka, with all the furniture and other goods, and to do the same with any other villages or single buildings where an outbreak has occurred. The inhabitants will be removed to other parts of the district, around which a rigid quarantine is to be maintained, and will be compensated for their loss. The German and Austrian authorities are not satisfied with the reports received from Russia, and are adopting stringent measures of defence, so as to prevent, if possible, the introduction of the disease in garments, and especially by means of furs. Prompt measures, even partaking of severity and of excessive caution, are wisest in such circumstances; for if the plague once gained a footing in Western Europe there are poverty and uncleanness enough to present innumerable victims to its attacks.

Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. are already prepared for Valentine's Day and its youthful expectants. If anything could vindicate the observance of this time-honoured anniversary, it would be the delicate and charming coloured designs—flowers, birds, and figures in every variety—often by artists of repute, from which young people may select their votive offerings. Even the verses, which are deemed essential to the occasion, though we don't profess to be judges, are improving—being a shade less silly than formerly.

Correspondence.

WAR AND THE CHURCH.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—If I may presume further upon the patience of your readers, I should like to urge strongly upon their attention one or two additional reasons why the churches should be more decided in their opposition to the war-spirit of the age, and should denounce it often and vehemently from their pulpits as one of the most deadly enemies of Christianity and the human race. In the opinion of many the invasion of Afghanistan is an exceptionally unjust and wicked proceeding, and I very much fear that what is now taking place in South Africa will not prove much more creditable to our national fame. Be it so; these little wars are only passing incidents in a great tragedy of cruelty and vice. If it be true that we are, as I hinted in a former letter, justified in attributing to war the depression in trade and the destitution and starvation of which we are hearing such heart-rending accounts every day, and if it be true that depressions in trade and commerce may often, if not always, be traced to war, it is obvious that war is a gigantic fraud by which deluded mortals are grossly deceived and betrayed. The causes of depression in trade, with all its attendant miseries, are, no doubt, various. Foolish competition, reckless ambition to be rich, mischievous collisions between capital and labour, and other agencies must share the blame, but over and above them all, rushing out like a thunderstorm, and overwhelming everything with disaster, the war-fiend covers us completely with ruin. In a previous letter I reminded your readers of what was said some weeks ago upon this subject by Sir William Harcourt in a speech delivered at Oxford. Many of our countrymen dismiss such utterances as mere rhetoric or party ebullition, but if men and women would give more time than they do to the thoughtful study of history, and endeavour to follow past wars through all their ramifications, I think they would begin to ask from what source the war-spirit has derived its lustre, and by what infatuation working people and others dependent upon their daily earnings are driven to clamour for war. I observe that Mr. Thomas Brassey, M.P., in a lecture delivered before the members of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution on the 21st ult., on "The Present Commercial Depression of Trade, its Causes and its Remedies," stated that "he did not believe that it was by commercial speculation alone, or *chiefly*, that the commerce of Continental Europe had been reduced to its present state of depression. The rivalries of military despots, the devastating wars which they had waged, and the bloated armaments which they maintain even in times of peace, had brought a larger share of ruin in their train than all the errors of the commercial classes. The situation in the United Kingdom showed that we suffered from the waste of capital caused by over-production, and from the recklessness with which advances have been made to bankrupt States." (*Weekly Scotsman*, January 25.) The occasion on which these weighty words were spoken was not a political one, it had no connection whatever with party; and yet the remarks were received with approving plaudits. Mr. Brassey ought to know something about this subject, and it is not likely that any rational assembly will insult common-sense by setting up the sneers and hootings of Jingoism against such an authority. To refer to another eminent authority, I find that in his treatise on "Free Trade and Protection," Professor Fawcett says (p. 34) that "during the closing years of the last and the commencement of the present century, the foreign trade of England was so much impeded by war, so many ports were closed from which she could have obtained food and other commodities, that prices, especially of agricultural produce, were for many years maintained at an unusually high level. When, therefore, peace was concluded in 1815, the agricultural interest became alarmed. Ports which had been closed were reopened; prices, it was said, would rapidly fall, and more protection was consequently demanded. The enactments known as the Corn Laws were then passed in deference to the claims thus put forward by those interested in agriculture. The high prices they had obtained in consequence of the war, they now endeavoured to retain through the agency of protective duties. It was therefore enacted that no importation of wheat should be permitted until it had reached the price of 80s. a quarter in the English market, and a proportionately high price was fixed for the exclusion of other grain." These are facts which it may be convenient to forget, but which it is of the utmost importance for everyone to remember. They go to show that war means *famine*, that even successful war with all its brilliant achievements is a curse, and that a spirited foreign policy is an apple of Sodom which those who clamour for it must give to their children instead of substantial food.

These are only a few facts, but let us only consider what an immense area they cover, and how easy it would be to supplement them from every page of history, and we cannot resist the conclusion that a nation which prides itself in its readiness to avenge every insult by an appeal to arms, and which bounds on an unscrupulous Ministry to unblushing robbery, contemptible swaggering, and wholesale massacre, deserves only to be ridiculed when it complains of hard times, and deplores the emptiness of its cupboards. What right have we to be horrified at the brutality which sacrifices children to Moloch when, unmindful of the clearest teaching of all history, we find even Christian men and women applauding a jaunty dictator, whose ambition is to become the Juggernaut of a self-deluded people? It may or it may not be true that the policy of our Government is responsible for the present depression in trade and commerce. Our Government, I grant, is not responsible for the whole of it, but if Her Majesty's present advisers are always threatening and making war without involving us in those miseries which have always been the natural outcome of war, Lord Beaconsfield has fully established a claim to be called "our miraculous Premier." Can a Conservative, any more than a Liberal, Ministry touch pitch and not be defiled? War is not a thriving trade. England, France, Germany, and Russia are proclaiming that fact from the house-tops at this very moment. It is nothing but a swindle which has too long imposed on credulous humanity.

In close connection with the facts just adverted to I cannot omit reference to the often repeated cry of over-production. I speak diffidently, yet perhaps not without good reason, when I say that, in my opinion, too much is made of this outcry. The producing classes do not form so large a proportion of the nation as a first glance might lead one to suppose. When we deduct from our population all those who are not engaged in obtaining raw material or in manufacturing goods to be disposed of in the market, we still leave a large majority untouched. We must include in this majority all the aristocracy, all professional men, clerks, shopkeepers, merchants, domestic servants, soldiers, sailors, children, &c. These are consumers. Many of them are engaged in passing produce on from one hand to another, but not in producing anything. Now, if I may take the statistics furnished by Professor Leone Levi in a letter to Mr. M. T. Bass, M.P. (*Times Weekly Ed.*, January 10), the producing classes cannot be reckoned at more than one-fifth of the population, and surely this is a proportion not too large, even when fully occupied, to supply the wants of all the people. If they overstock the market, as at times they unquestionably do, why is it? Because, it is asserted, they make the supply outrun the demand. Yes, but we too often forget that demand and need do not always keep pace with each other, as, in a healthy state of society, they ought to do. I may need a suit of clothes and yet not be in a position to demand it. My pockets may be empty. Poverty has many wants, but makes few demands. Let Jingoism flourish, and there will be fewer demands still. When the London poulterers had to sell their geese and turkeys last Christmas at half price it was because they had miscalculated the purchasing power of a community which can afford to applaud the hero of "peace with honour," and go home to a bare cupboard. The demand was less, but the appetite would gladly have spurred on the tongue to cry out for the good cheer, if only the purse could have played its part in the Christmas festivity. A war-loving nation must moderate its demands in the market, even if its wants remain the same. The poorer classes cannot have a slice of Afghanistan and a good dinner to boot

But we shall be reminded that war gives employment to those who are engaged in manufacturing implements of war and ammunition. That is true, but I am at a loss to see what profit we reap from this. It only proves that one class of the community may thrive at the expense of the whole, for the produce of this class is paid for out of the taxes, and yet is rarely used. When it is used it destroys more lives than it ever maintained. It sweeps into a common grave thousands of possible labourers by whose legitimate industry we might have benefited, and leads inevitably to a rise in prices and to scarcity of the necessaries of life. A man who makes a plough contributes towards a

good harvest, whereas the manufacturer of arms contributes, at our own expense, towards famine and famine prices. The one carries bread to the hungry, the other takes it from them, and lays waste fields which might be white with waving corn. A trade which employs a large number of persons in producing articles which will either not be used at all, or, if used, will destroy a greater number of lives than it maintains, and may even involve in misery and ruin the very people among whom it is carried on, can only, by a foolish misnomer, be reckoned as a branch of industry.

On another and serious question as bearing upon a great national vice I must briefly touch. Our country is heavily taxed, and no one can deny that we owe this enormous burden to our foreign policy with its long succession of expensive wars. Were it not for war, our taxes would be comparatively light. But how do we meet our debt? By manufacturing drunkards. I think I make no mistake when I say that, but for the debts which our wars have incurred, any Government would be strong enough to deal in a manly way with the drink traffic which threatens to be the ruin of our national character. We need a large revenue, and every Chancellor of the Exchequer who hears of reforms in our liquor laws trembles. Sweeping reforms in the direction of sobriety become impossible, because war has found in alcohol its wealthiest support. Thus the arm of the legislator is paralysed where it ought to be unusually strong.

Surely our churches should not wink at these facts, nor should our pulpits be silent. If war be responsible for one-half of the mischief and crime with which in my three letters I have charged it, in what other light must we regard it than a device of Satan to prevent nations from enjoying prosperity, and to betray whole communities into self-mutilation and destruction? It is surely his spirited foreign policy by which he diverts us from attempting domestic reforms. England has already won too many laurels on battle-fields to be charged with deficiency in animal courage. Her ambition should now be to prove that her moral courage is equally unimpeachable. Brave men are not afraid to sleep without loaded revolvers under their pillows. They are not haunted with a constant dread of being attacked. One must have some courage before he can endure, without retaliation, to be undeservedly pointed at as a coward. John Bull seems to lack this courage, but we may hope that it is really in him. We all know that those who can take an insult without brutish resentment are not craven-hearted. Let our people be taught this. Let England show that she can afford to be bullied without going off into a panic of fear, and that she is too conscious of her strength to heed the taunt of cowardice which those who wish to see her embroiled in mischievous wars may fling at her. She may thus become as distinguished for her moral as she has hitherto been for her animal courage, and she will teach all nations to follow after peace. The churches must take the lead in such instruction, and I do not know a better theme for the pulpit at this juncture than the "The Prince of Peace."

Yours respectfully,

F. SONLEY JOHNSTONE.

Merry Hill, near Wolverhampton.

MILTON MOUNT COLLEGE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you allow me space to make a communication which will be of interest to our subscribers and to our churches.

At the Christmas examination of the Royal College of Preceptors, we presented forty-five pupils of this college and six pupils of the High School in connection with it, all of whom were successful in obtaining certificates. Distinctions were accorded in Scripture, arithmetic, political economy, music, and drawing. These candidates all came from the middle forms of the college, the two senior classes being sent in entire for the Cambridge examination.

In April last, fifty-nine pupils were presented from the college for the adult examination of the Society of Arts, all of whom were successful. The subjects were English, arithmetic, cookery, and music. Prizes open to the females of England were taken in English and arithmetic.

We need about 1,000*l.* a year additional subscriptions to free us from all financial anxiety, contributions towards which will be thankfully received by the treasurer, or by

Yours faithfully,

D. M. JENKINS,

Office: 50, Grove-road, Bow, Secretary.

Jan. 31, 1879.

Religious and Denominational News.

We regret to hear that the Rev. Marmaduke Miller, of Manchester, is suffering from serious illness, and is likely to be laid aside for some weeks.

On Tuesday last the United Presbyterian Church at Banchory, Aberdeen, gave a cordial and unanimous invitation to Mr. William Logan, M.A., preacher, Glasgow. On Thursday evening last a similar hearty "call" was given to Mr. Logan by the Presbyterian Church at Wallsend, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FAREHAM, HANTS.—The Rev. William Champness, late of Stockport, was publicly recognised on the 21st ult. as pastor of the church at Fareham. The Rev. H. H. Carlisle presided, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. A. Wilson, H. E. Arkell, J. J. Goundy, C. H. Harcourt, and G. Gibson.

REGENT-SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—At the annual meeting of this congregation, Rev. Dr. Dykes presiding, the report presented showed that progress had been made in almost every department of church work during the past year. At the present time the membership stands at 662, and the income for the past year was something under 4,200*l.* To the minister's stipend a sum of 150*l.* had been added, making the salary 1,200*l.* per annum. Interesting reports were submitted in reference to the large and prosperous Sunday-schools at Regent-square and Somers Town, the Young Men's Fellowship Association, the Young Women's Fellowship Association, the Children's Church, the Mission Society at King's-cross Theatre, the Regent-square Mission, the Class for the Blind, and numerous other religious and philanthropic institutions connected with the church.

THE CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE SOCIETY are entering upon a new enterprise. They have given lectures to the higher classes of society, and lectures to working men in different parts of London; they have now arranged for the delivery of lectures to City missionaries, Scripture-readers, and others who have to meet doubts and objections in their ordinary Christian work. Dr. Sinclair Paterson will deliver one series at St. Paul's Schoolroom, Mile End-road, on "Our Knowledge of God"; the Rev. A. G. Girdlestone will give another at the Mildmay Conference Hall, on "The Christian Teacher in presence of Scepticism"; the Rev. Preb. Row will deliver a third at St. Paul's, on "The Primitive Testimony to Christianity." We understand that the lectures will be repeated in other metropolitan neighbourhoods if the attendance is encouraging. Such a useful project should not fail through the indifference of those who are likely to be helped in their daily evangelistic labours, or through inadequate support of the society.

NONCONFORMIST COLLEGES' TOTAL ABSTINENCE UNION.—The inaugural meeting of the Manchester Nonconformist Colleges' Total Abstinence Union was held on Friday week in the New Assembly Hall of the Lancashire Independent College, Whalley Range. Mr. Edward Baines (Leeds) presided and delivered an address. The secretary (Mr. E. V. Cooper) read a statement in regard to the formation and present position of the Union, the establishment of which was suggested by the successful working of a similar one in connection with the London Theological Colleges, comprising Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Baptists, and Independents. The object of the Union, which was formally established on the 29th of October last, is "Mutual encouragement in total abstinence principles, and the advocacy of such principles in the several colleges and in the community at large." Mr. T. S. Morant, B.A., has been elected president, and Mr. S. W. Hopkins vice-president, the office of treasurer being combined with that of secretary. Of the eighty-eight students in the Baptist (Brighton-grove), Methodist Free Church (Victoria Park), and Lancashire Independent Colleges, seventy-one are abstainers and sixty-eight members of the Union. The principals and professors of the various colleges concerned are in sympathy with the new movement, and rejoice in its inauguration. Several additions have been made to the Union since the meeting.

THE LATE MR. WINTERBOTHAM.—The Rev. J. Park, of Bedford Chapel, Stroud, at the close of a sermon on a text taken from 2 Kings v. 18, referred to the death of the late Mr. Rayner Winterbotham, J.P., uncle of the late Under-Secretary of State, and son of a minister who was imprisoned for Nonconformity. He said:—"In the history of Nonconformity we lose an honourable name, one which has been associated with strict integrity and high consistency; and he for whom we mourn did nothing to cast a slur or stain upon it. While we remember his great wisdom—in my estimation he was one of the most cultured men in Stroud—and his sweet simplicity and sincerity of character, we are unable to forget that into his public or private life there never entered anything that savoured of temporising or trimming. He belonged to a church which is not the fashionable one in national life, and which has to do its Divine work without meritorious adjuncts or State favours; but he was very loyal, and the temptations which he had, and which men like him must ever have, he successfully resisted. We thank God to-day for his wisdom, his conscientiousness, and his heart that never compromised with conviction. He is gone from us, and he wears to-day the crown of a sweet and generous and charitable Christian life. But his influence still remains, and the good that he did lives after him, and if it be imitated by the men and women of this church, then it will not be interred with his bones, but will help us in the office, the shop, the warehouse, and the mill, to keep close to truth whatever it cost, and scorn an unrighteous, Naaman-like expediency, whatever it bring."

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.—The Rev. Dr. Manning paid his annual visit to the Conference Hall, Mildmay-park, on Sunday last, and in the afternoon and evening, before large congregations, made an earnest appeal on behalf of the society. They were issuing, he said, about sixteen millions of tracts every year, and from all parts of the world they were receiving expressions of gratitude for the work the society was doing. Not only at home, but throughout the world, open doors were now being set before them, and he referred especially to Japan, to India, and China. The society had expended 1,000*l.* in the distribution of tracts in connection with the Great Exhibition in Paris, and during the terrible war between Russia and Turkey agents were constantly at work, both among the regiments who were summoned to the front and the wounded in the hospitals. In connection with the Afghanistan trouble, similar efforts were being successfully made. The whole wide world might now be called the field of the society's labours. During the nine months of the society's year they had given away 12,500*l.* more than they had received, and 4,500*l.* more than in the corresponding period of last year. Appeals were reaching them from every part of the world for increased assistance, and the question they had to answer was, Are we to stay our hands? In conclusion, Dr. Manning said that their funds were exhausted, and stay their hands in some measure they must, unless help was forthcoming. Whatever funds Christian friends placed at their disposal should at once be devoted towards the evangelisation of the world, and he prayed that all might have the right conviction and take the right course of action.

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST THANKSGIVING FUND.—A meeting of the general committee of this fund was held at the Centenary Hall, Bishopsgate-street Within, on Thursday, to consider a number of proposals for the appropriation of any surplus contributions in excess of 200,000*l.*, as originally fixed upon. It was reported that the sum of 61,766*l.* had been promised up to date. The executive committee reported that in view of the success which has thus far attended the appeal on behalf of the Thanksgiving Fund, in its opinion the general committee would be justified in making some further provisional appropriations not exceeding the sum of 40,000*l.* It was resolved that out of any excess fund there should be handed to the missionary committee, for the purposes of foreign missions, a sum equal to any amount which shall have been contributed to the Thanksgiving Fund from foreign stations, after deducting therefrom any sums which may have been specifically allocated to home objects by individual donors. It was also resolved that, having been informed that a promise has been made of 1,000*l.* to the Thanksgiving Fund, and a further sum of 9,000*l.* for the purpose of establishing an orphanage for the children of Christian parents (the children of Methodist parents, other things being equal, being preferred), the committee decided that a sum of 19,000*l.*, including the 9,000*l.* above mentioned, be allotted for the purpose of establishing such an orphanage, subject to the appropriation already made. At a further sitting held on Friday a sum of 5,000*l.* was provisionally allocated for the extension of lay agency under the direction of the Home Missionary Committee, and 2,000*l.* for the purposes of the Connexional Temperance Committee. Also it was agreed to recommend a grant in aid of the fund for the extension of Methodism in Scotland equal in amount to the total contributions to the Thanksgiving Fund from Scotland, plus fifty per cent., provided that the additional percentage shall not exceed 1,500*l.*

MR. SPURGEON AND HIS CONGREGATION.—Mr. C. H. Spurgeon has sent from Mentone, where he is at present seeking rest, a sermon to his congregation, written, he says, "when far away from his people," founded on a portion of 1 Samuel xx. 27—"David's place was empty." Addressing himself to the usual attendants at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Mr. Spurgeon says:—

Dear Friends,—Do not let your seats be empty during my absence. I shall be distressed beyond measure if I hear that the congregations are declining. The best preachers we can obtain are selected to address you, and therefore I hope you will see no need to forsake your usual place. If you do so it will reflect but small credit upon your pastor's ministry, for it will be manifest that you are babes in grace, dependent upon one man for edification. Nelson said, "England expects every man to do his duty," and at this time, which is an emergency in our church history, I should say, the church expects every member to sustain all meetings, labours, and offerings with unflagging energy, and especially to keep up the prayer meetings." The rev. gentleman winds up with a letter addressed to his hearers at the Tabernacle and elsewhere, in which he says:—"Beloved friends,—By the tender kindness of God the journey here was made without excessive fatigue, and now I trust that genial weather will bring with it rapid restoration. This place has participated in the severe weather which has swept over the Continent, so that I miss just now the bright sunshine to which I have been formerly accustomed; yet it is comparatively warm, and so far is beneficial to an invalid. Rest is the main thing, and rest I hope to find, that I may come back to you strengthened for sacred service. It is at the request of many that I write these few lines, otherwise I should be better content to say nothing about myself. Tottering on my staff to-day in weak-

ness, I look forward hopefully to the time when I shall stand among you in fulness of vigour. God grant that mental, and above all spiritual, strength may be given me for the preaching of the Word in your midst, and that my long bodily affliction may assist to that end. I trust I shall not be forgotten in your prayers when it is well with you. I hope, also, that the various enterprises, such as the college and orphanage, will not be allowed to languish because their president is ill. Peace be to you all.—Yours very heartily, C. H. Spurgeon."

At the morning service on Sunday in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, the Rev. Archibald G. Brown, of the East London Tabernacle, presiding, special prayers were offered for the speedy return to health of Mr. Spurgeon.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The following is a classified list of candidates who passed with honours in the Matriculation Examinations for January :—

Frederick William Kellett (1), Kingswood and Woodhouse Grove School; Sophia Bryant (2), private study and tuition; Joseph George Willis (3), Bristol Grammar School; Edward John Forse (4), Cooper's Hill College and private study; James Alan Whitehead (5), Priory House School, Lower Clapton; Joseph John Findlay (6), Kingswood and Woodhouse Grove and New College, Eastbourne; George Stallard (7), Keble College, Oxford, and private study; William Henry Hunt (8), King Edward School and Hartley Institute, Southampton; Rebecca Bragg (9), The Mount School, York; William James Beal (10), Banbury British School and Borough-road College; Phani Chushon Mukerji (11), Dacca and University Colleges and private tuition; Henry Allen,* private study; William Philip Schreiner,* South African College, and Downing College, Cambridge; Ernest Philip Gaskin,* Kingswood and Woodhouse Grove School; Percy James Edmunds,* University College School; William Walton,* private study and tuition; Samuel Jones,* University College of Wales; Sophia Margaretta Lewis,* private study; George William Bater,* Congregational School, Lewisham, and University School, Hastings; Edward John Cave,* private study and tuition; Marianne Andrews,* private study and tuition; Edward Burchell Woods, private tuition; Frank Morley, Woodbridge Grammar School; Frederick William Bennett, Owens College; Frederick William West, Kingswood and Woodhouse Grove School; George Watson, private study; Herbert Edward Turner, Congregational School, Lewisham, and University School, Hastings; Leonard Hollingworth Clark, Priory House School, Lower Clapton; Gordon Crewe Chambers, Dulwich College; Emily Tomlinson, Girton College, Cambridge, and private study; Sidney Loney, Tonbridge School and Sidney Sussex Coll., Camb.; William Henry Ruston, private study; Henry Morley French, High School, Middlesborough, and private study; William Charles Northcott, private study; Harry Thiselton Mark, Congregational School, Lewisham; Arthur Hayes Kensington, Winchester College and private study; William John Archer Jellicorse, private study; Charles Frederic Grantham, Oxford County School and private study; Alexander Edward Morton, Grove Park School, Wrexham; Frederick Haddy Skelton, St. Mark's College, Chelsea, and private study; Frederic Wyles, Surrey County School, Cranleigh; William Jones, Birmingham and Midland Institute, and private study; William John Ward, Wesleyan College, Taunton; Frederick Womack, private study; James Henry Priestley, St. John's College, Battersea, and private study; Thomas James Bowlker, private study; Mary Clara Dawes, Newton House, Surbiton; Arthur Macken, St. John's College, Battersea, and private study; Edwin William Clark, Dorset County School and private study and tuition, and Harold Roper, Bristol Grammar School; equal; George Hayes Paice, University College School; Benjamin Childs, Borough-road Training College and private study; Frederick Goodwin, City of London School and private study; Edward Gaved Stocker, Amersham Hall School; Charles Downing, St. John's College, Cambridge, and private study; Dennis Coyle, Royal College of Science, Dublin, and private study; Elkan Nathan Adler, City of London School; Frederic Charles Larkin, private study and tuition; John Johnston, private study; William Henry Hodgson, private study, and William Ivens Buswell Watson, St. Andrew Villa, Northampton, and Tettenhall College, equal.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL.

A general court of governors of this institution was held at the City Terminus Hotel on Thursday last, Mr. J. Kemp-Welch, J.P., treasurer, presiding. Mr. Jonadab Finch, secretary, read the report, which stated that the family had considerably increased during the year, notably by the admission of twenty-seven children upon presentation—twenty-four in connection with the Princess Alice disaster, at the request of the "Mansion House Committee." Their admission, however, would in no way affect the ordinary election, as it was proposed to elect forty children that day. The number would then stand as follows:—Senior School, 422; Junior School, 149; total, 571. The committee gladly reported a steady increase in annual subscriptions and general receipts, which yet fell short of the ordinary expenditure by about 1,362*l.*, showing that strenuous exertions must be made to prevent a falling off in the present year.

1. Exhibition of 30*l.* per annum for two years.
2. Disqualified by age for Second Exhibition.
3. Exhibition of 20*l.* per annum for two years.
4. Disqualified by age for Third Exhibition.
5. Exhibition of 15*l.* per annum for two years.
6. Prize of 10*l.*
7. Disqualified by age for second prize.
8. Prize of 5*l.*
9. Disqualified by age for third prize.
10. Disqualified by age for third prize.
11. Prize of 5*l.*

* Obtained the number of marks qualifying for a prize.

The new schoolrooms and laundry at Hornsey rise being completed, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Teck had graciously promised to open them in April or May next, and it was hoped that friends would take the opportunity to clear off the 2,000*l.* debt upon those buildings. At the annual festival last March the president, the Duke of Cambridge, presided, and contributions amounting to 2,385*l.* were received. The high standard of education attained both by the girls and boys was specially remarked upon by the Hon. John Welsh, United States Minister, the chairman on the morning of the examination day, June 25. The Rev. Dr. McEwan, of Clapham, presided at the distribution of prizes in the evening. The reports of the head-master and head-mistress showed how thoroughly all the branches of study were taught. Seven deaths had occurred during the year, chiefly owing to an epidemic. Public meetings had been held by the society in various places, resulting in an addition of 535*l.* to the funds. 209*l.* had been received from collections at half-a-dozen chapels, but the committee regretted that so few collections had been made, especially as a large number of the children were orphans of deceased members of various churches. Reference was then made to the deaths of two vice-presidents, Earl Russell and Mr. Henry Huth, and also Messrs. W. Banting and G. L. Neighbour. The total income from all sources, including balance from last year, was 21,971*l.* 14s. 10d., the ordinary expenditure, 12,444*l.* 1s. 1d.; permanent improvements, 4,196*l.* 18s. 8d.; amalgamation expenses, 2,511*l.* 3s. 2d.; purchase of stock, 2,262*l.* 10s. The balance at bankers January 1 was 557*l.* 1s. 11d. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said the statements respecting the health and education of the children would have been followed with great interest. They had had a great deal of sickness, but they hoped they had now got fairly through the attacks, and their losses had been comparatively small owing to the skill and diligence of the officers and nurses. The educational progress had been both marked and satisfactory. They had gone through a year of financial difficulty. The expenses of the amalgamation had been very costly, but they were less in debt than they might have anticipated, and they hoped that at the coming opening of the new school buildings under royal patronage, there would be an increase of annual subscribers. Having a large family of 550 or more children to care for daily was a great responsibility, and he hoped all who had the opportunity would do what they could to promote the interests of the charity, and especially would urge their clerical friends to preach on its behalf. Mr. J. Surr, C.C., seconded the adoption of the report, which was agreed to. Votes of thanks were then accorded to the Duke of Cambridge and to the vice-presidents. Mr. Alderman Ellis moved that the name of Mr. G. S. Measom be added to the list of vice-presidents, which was seconded by Mr. Podger, and, after some discussion, carried by show of hands. Votes of thanks were then given to the general committee, medical officers, and auditors, and to the chairman for presiding, and the election of forty children then took place.

FRANCE.—RESIGNATION OF MARSHAL MACMAHON AND SUCCESSION OF M. GREVY.

Thursday, January 30, a momentous crisis in the chequered history of France was surmounted with almost unparalleled quietude. Marshal MacMahon resigned his position as President of the Republic, and M. Jules Grévy was elected in his place. The Marshal, persisting in his refusal to sanction the proposed changes in the command of the army, officially communicated his intention to the Ministers assembled in Council at Versailles. Later on the resignation was conveyed to the Presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, and in the afternoon, without any public excitement, the Chambers assembled, and M. Grévy, pale and visibly under the influence of emotion, rose, and with a firm voice read the following letter of the President of the Republic :—

At the opening of this session the Cabinet laid before you a programme of measures which, while satisfying public opinion, could seemingly be voted without danger to the security and good government of the country. Waiving all personal ideas, I had given it my entire approbation, for I was not sacrificing any of the principles to which my conscience bound me to remain faithful. The Cabinet, in the belief of responding to the opinion of the majority in the two Chambers, now proposes to me as regards the great commands general measures which I deem contrary to the interests of the army, and consequently to those of the country. I cannot subscribe to them. In view of this refusal the Cabinet resigns. Any other Cabinet taken from the majority of the Chambers would impose the same conditions on me. I accordingly think it my duty to curtail the duration of the trust with which the National Assembly invested me: I resign the Presidency of the Republic. In leaving office, I have the consolation of believing that during the fifty-three years I have devoted to the service of my country as a soldier and as a citizen I have never been guided by other sentiments than those of honour and duty and by perfect devotion to my country. I beg you, Sir, to inform the Senate (or Chamber of Deputies) of my decision.

Accept the expression of my high consideration.

(Signed)

Marshal de MacMahon, Duke de Magenta.

Versailles, Jan. 30, 1879.

The letter was read in the midst of absolute silence. Not the faintest attempt to express approval or blame interrupted the voice of the reader. The universal feeling in regard to the Marshal's resignation seems to have been that of an inevitable but painful necessity, and the deputies' respectful attitude towards him gave the sitting quite an historical solemnity. M. Grévy next read to the silent house the articles of the Constitution providing that the Chambers shall immediately meet in congress in case of a vacancy to proceed to the election of a new President of the Republic. There was then a short adjournment until half-past four in the Chamber of Deputies. The sitting then closed amid great excitement. The Senators and Deputies, to the number of nearly 800, were assembled in the Chamber of Deputies at the appointed time. M. Martel, the President of the Senate, again read the Marshal's letter, amid a few plaudits from the Right. He then announced that a vote would be taken for the election of a President for seven years. At five o'clock the voting began, and lasted for an hour and a-half. As each member ascended the tribune he placed his voting-paper in the hands of an official, who dropped it into an urn, whilst at the same time another secretary handed him a small ball, which he deposited in another urn as he descended. These balls are afterwards counted, and must correspond in number to that of the voting-papers. Thus the 800 members of the National Assembly passed one after another through the tribune, and the House, all the while apparently inattentive, was always on the watch. When M. Buffet gave his vote there was some sensation; but when the veteran Prime Minister, M. Dufaure, who had refused to become a candidate for the Presidentship, recorded his vote, a spontaneous burst of applause burst forth, almost every member of the Centre and Left clapping his hands in demonstration of approval. It is worthy of remark that M. Gambetta passed by unnoticed. At half-past six the voting was over, and an hour after that M. Martel entered and said amidst profound attention, "M. Jules Grévy has obtained 563 votes, and General Chanzy has obtained ninety-nine. I, therefore, proclaim M. Jules Grévy President of the Republic." Then arose a great shout of approval. "Vive Grévy" was heard from all assembled except a few members of the Right who had voted for General Chanzy. At a quarter to eight the Assembly was dissolved amid cries of "Vive la République." The Senators having withdrawn, the Chamber of Deputies resumed its sitting. One of the Vice-Presidents read a short letter from its late President, M. Grévy, bidding the deputies farewell.

In the voting referred to there were 130 abstentions. The same evening Marshal MacMahon paid a visit to M. Grévy, and congratulated him upon his elevation to the office of President of the Republic. The interview was of the most courteous character.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* gives the following history of the events which led to the political crisis in France :—

On Sunday week the Marshal, resolved on retiring with M. Dufaure, begged the latter to make concessions, not wishing the resistance of the Cabinet to be the cause of a crisis. Next day he had an account of the sitting given him, had the vote of confidence with the changes it underwent explained to him, and declared that things had turned out well. In the Cabinet Councils which followed he raised no difficulties. Indeed, when one of the Ministers, with many misgivings, apprised him of the removal of a high functionary specially favoured by the Marshal, he was surprised to hear him say, without the slightest hesitation, "Well, whom will you put in his place?" Thus things went on till Friday. The Cabinet, like everybody else, felt sure that the Marshal had understood the bearing of the vote of confidence, and was conforming thereto. At Saturday's Council M. Léon Say submitted the list of changes he proposed to make among the treasurers-general. The Marshal said nothing, but asked M. Dufaure to remain after his colleagues. When they were alone—I learn this from two informants, one of whom heard it from the Marshal and the other from M. Dufaure—the Marshal said :—"I will not sign those decrees. M. Léon Say is a Minister who gets into a passion. These executions must not be made. There must be no going into a passion." "But M. Léon Say," replied M. Dufaure, "is not a Minister who goes into a passion; he is a Minister who arrives first at his object—that is all. We all took a formal pledge in last Monday's sitting, and we all resolved on acting up to it." "But surely," rejoined the Marshal, "you are not going to bring me heaps of dismissals to sign, I hope?" "We are all going," said M. Dufaure, "to keep our word. We will not make hecatombs, but we will give every satisfaction to which public opinion is entitled. We have each our list ready—I have mine and the Minister of War has his. We are each going to submit it to you, and I hope you will sign it; for by not signing it, so far from screening the functionaries, you would perhaps expose them, seeing that what we do not do others will do still more energetically; and if you prefer, as you tell us, to retire, not only will you not save those you wish to protect, but you will jeopardise those whom we are now really protecting." Here the conversation ended, and the next day the Marshal signed the financial changes, M. Dufaure consequently believing him won over. At Tuesday morning's Council M. Dufaure laid the decree affecting six public prosecutors before the Marshal. He examined it, and then, turning to M. Dufaure, said, "I am going to sign this decree, but I leave the responsibility of it to you," and signed it. General Gresley, in turn, submitted his list. The law provides that eighteen high military commands shall be created; that each of these posts shall be entrusted to a general commander-in-chief, who may be relieved every three years. Of the eighteen generals thus appointed, nine have held their posts for more than five years, and next September they will have been in them six years. The Marshal's idea is that, not having been removed after three years, they ought by tacit reappointment to finish another term

of three years. The law certainly says nothing of the kind; it simply accords the power of removing a commander after three years. General Gresley's decree dealt with nine generals. Of these four were to be transferred, and five generals—Bourbaki, Lartigues, Bataille, Du Barrail, and Montaudon—definitively relieved of their commands. It is not a fact that General Ranson was to be of the number, his legal term having not yet expired. The Marshal declared he could not sign this decree. "I cannot," he said, "sign a decree superseding brave generals, my own friends and companions, whose legal term of command only expires in five or six months. There is no danger in my refusal. I cannot consent to stay at such a cost. I blush at the thought of it. I assure you on my honour I will not do it. It will have to be another who does it. Political categories must not be created in the army. I would prefer to resign if I am forced to it. My children would not forgive me for such an act. I cannot, where the army is concerned, for which I am responsible before the nation, obey the injunctions of newspapers like these." And the Marshal showed two Republican newspapers which for some days back have been publishing lists of officials classed in political categories. As usual with him in such circumstances, his face flushed; he spoke hurriedly, as if anxious to get what he had to do over. The Ministers said nothing; for after hearing this it was difficult to form an immediate resolution. The Council accordingly adjourned. In the afternoon the Cabinet met again. After much hesitation, the Ministers came to the conclusion that their propositions must be maintained.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

M. Jules Grévy was born at Montsores-Vaudrey (Jura) on Aug. 15, 1813. He commenced life as a barrister, and soon acquired celebrity as an advocate for political offenders, and notably for his defence of some prisoners who were compromised with Blanqui in the insurrection of 1839. He was recognised as one of the leaders of the Democratic party, and after the revolution in February, 1848, he was appointed Commissioner in the Jura, for which district he was elected representative in the Assembly. He took an active part in placing the executive power in M. Thiers's hands, and was elected President of the Legislative Assembly, a post which he held for two years. In 1876 he was sent to the Chamber of Deputies by the electors of the Jura, and since then he has filled the chair of President of the Chamber to the satisfaction of all its Liberal members.

The *Daily News* remarks in a leading article:—

If sixteen months ago there was any doubt felt lest M. Grévy's name, notwithstanding his eminence as the President of the Chamber, was not sufficiently well known to awaken enthusiasm for his candidature, it must have been because the younger generation was supposed to have forgotten his share in the events of 1848. M. Grévy at that time made himself conspicuous by a famous "amendment," which, if it had been carried, would have saved France from many years of trouble and uncertainty. So great was the stir made by what was then and is still known as "the Grévy Amendment," that one of his constituents in the Jura is said to have asked him whether his name was really M. Amendment or M. Grévy. The amendment was of sufficient importance to justify the noise that was raised over it, and its terms are an admirable illustration of the statesman's principles. It was to the effect that the President of the Republic should be, as our Prime Minister practically is now, removable at the pleasure of the Assembly which elected him. M. Grévy foresaw the use which might be made of a Presidency for a fixed term of years by an ambitious man, and warned his countrymen of the danger in words to which subsequent events gave the aspect of a prophecy. So strongly was M. Grévy opposed to fixity in the Presidential term, that at one time it was feared that he would decline to be put in nomination for the office as at present defined. His scruples, fortunately, were overcome. Perhaps he has been brought to see that other efficient safeguards may be provided against an abuse of the President's position, and that tenure at the will of the Chambers has inconveniences of its own. It would be egotism, and not conscientiousness to decline to serve the Republic because its Constitution is not in every detail to his mind, and to leave an office which he deems dangerous to be filled by dangerous men. M. Grévy's long term of office as President in succession of the National Assembly and the Chamber of Deputies has removed him alike from the antipathies and from the notoriety which attend on active political partisanship. It is therefore a fitting preparation for the post which he now fills.

TRIAL OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW BANK DIRECTORS.

The trial of the Glasgow Bank directors and manager was concluded on Friday. The Lord Justice Clerk, in summing up, submitted three questions which arose out of the charge—firstly, whether the balance-sheets were false; secondly, whether each or any of the prisoners knew that they were false; and, thirdly, whether the circulation and publication of the balance-sheets was done with a fradulent intention. The learned judge went into the evidence with regard to the manner in which the accounts were said to be falsified. Referring to the chief witness as to this, Mr. Morrison, the judge said he had given his evidence in a very confused manner, and he would leave it to the jury to say whether it was to be relied on. Respecting the state of the large accounts he thought there was sufficient evidence to prove that the directors had a general knowledge of how they stood. The jury, after an absence of nearly two hours, returned with the following verdict:—"We find the panels Lewis Potter and Robert Summers Stronach guilty of all the charges as libelled; and we find the panels John Stewart, Robert Salmond, William Taylor, Henry Inglis, and John Innes Wright guilty of uttering and using, as libelled, false balance-sheets or statements of the affairs of the City of Glasgow Bank."

Sentence was passed on the prisoners on Saturday. Lewis Potter and Robert Summers Stronach were each sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, and John Stewart, Robert Salmond, William Taylor, Henry Inglis, and John Innes Wright were sentenced to eight months' imprisonment. The Lord Justice Clerk, in passing sentence on Potter and Stronach, said he thought it was right to say, in explanation of the sentence which he pronounced, that had the other two charges in the indictment or either of them been proved it would have imposed on the Court the duty of inflicting a very severe punishment, because not only those charges infer crime of very great magnitude, but they would have brought into the case the element of personal advantage as the motive. For the rest, the act of which they were convicted was one which they committed for the benefit of the bank, but that did not remove it from the category of crime—very far from it, indeed. In sentencing the other prisoners, the Lord Justice Clerk said that the Court had looked at the distinction made by the jury, and as they had been already confined since October he thought a sentence of eight months would meet the ends of justice.

Outside the court in Parliament-square a large assembly had congregated, and the result was received there with expressions of astonishment. Shortly after twelve o'clock the prisoners were removed in the large prison-van to the Calton Gaol. Extreme precautions had been taken by the authorities to prevent any disturbance. A large *posse* of police officers guarded both entrances in order to exclude the public, and the van itself was guarded by six constables. When the prisoners had entered they were rapidly driven away, and were followed by the shouts and exclamations of displeasure of a large number of persons who had collected in the precincts of the court.

The five directors sentenced to eight months' imprisonment were quietly conveyed from Edinburgh to Glasgow Prison. Messrs. Potter and Stronach, who were sentenced to eighteen months, are to be taken to Perth Penitentiary.

Two Glasgow United Presbyterian Churches have resolved to hand to the City Bank liquidators a contribution of 125*l.*, made to each by Mr. James Morton, whose connection with the City Bank has been so much heard of lately.

The other Scotch banks have refused to accept the new arrangement with regard to the Caledonian Bank, to which the City of Glasgow Bank liquidators had assented, but they have suggested means, which it is thought will be carried out, to enable the Caledonian to reopen its doors.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

THE REPRESENTATION OF MIDLOTHIAN.

Mr. Gladstone has written a letter to the Liberals of Midlothian, in which he accepts their invitation to become a candidate for that county. The right hon. gentleman says:—"Under anything like ordinary circumstances, my choice would have been, after having served already in eleven Parliaments, either retirement or at any rate the least conspicuous and most tranquil seat which it might be within my option to obtain. But the circumstances of the present juncture are far from being ordinary. At no period of my public life have the issues awaiting the judgment of the nation been of such profound importance. The management of finance, the scale of expenditure, the constantly growing arrears of legislation, serious as they are, only lead up to still greater questions. I hold before you, as I have held in the House of Commons, that the faith and honour of the country have been gravely compromised in the foreign policy of the Ministry; that the disturbances of confidence, and lately of peace, which they have brought about have prolonged and aggravated the public distress; that they have augmented the power and influence of the Russian Empire while estranging the feeling of its population; that they have embarked the Crown and people in an unjust war full of mischief, if not of positive danger to India; and that by their use of the treaty-making and war-making powers of the Crown they have abridged the just right of Parliament, and have presented prerogative to the nation under an unconstitutional aspect which tends to make it insecure. Thus the particular subjects before us, which separately are grave enough, all resolve themselves into one comprehensive question—the question whether this is or is not the way in which the country wishes to be governed. I hope that when the time arrives the constituencies will decide this issue, in whatever sense presented, at any rate in a manner perfectly plain and definitive. I think that in the invitation before me the Liberals of Midlothian have sought to do what they could towards thus presenting the question intelligibly as a public and not a personal question. It is with a similar view that I loyally and gratefully accept the offer, and will co-operate in giving it effect."

At the annual meeting of the East and North of Scotland Liberal Association, held in Edinburgh on Wednesday, the Right Hon. W. P. Adam, M.P., who presided, said he thought he might congratulate the electors of Midlothian on the excellence of their organisation, and if Mr. Gladstone should accede to the request to stand for the county, Scotland would have reason to be proud. No man respected more than he did the Duke of Buccleuch; but, then, he submitted every elector was free to act as he thought right, and vote for the man of his choice, in spite of any dictation in any part of the county from any great man. The duke, as well as being a chief, was also known as a vassal. There were a good many gentlemen who held qualifications which made them superiors to the Duke of Buccleuch. All he could say was that he trusted the Liberals would never soil their hands by attempting anything of this kind to deprive the people of the right to choose their own members. Non-resident voters and faggot voters were two totally different things, which could not be compared. The enlightened and independent constituency of Midlothian would, he was sure, resent any attempt to override their choice.

The *Scotsman* states that during the last few weeks the Conservatives of Midlothian have exceeded all their previous efforts in the manufacture of faggot votes, of which no fewer than 120 have been created since the beginning of December!

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—Mr. Edward Hicks was returned unopposed for this county on Wednesday. He is a Conservative and a strong Protestant.

SOUTHWARK.—Last week Mr. Leicester, Mr. Watkin Williams, M.P., Sir John Bennett, and Professor Thorold Rogers addressed the Liberal "Two Hundred," after which an exhaustive vote was taken, and Professor Rogers was chosen as the second Liberal candidate to contest the borough with Mr. Andrew Dunn.

TOWER HAMLETS.—Mr. Benjamin Lucraft, a member of the School Board for London, has issued an address to the electors of the Tower Hamlets. After stating that for thirty-five years he has given an unpaid and zealous assistance to all reform movements, Mr. Lucraft says, if elected, he shall support the Liberal party, but questions outside the two great political parties will be considered by him apart from party, and altogether on the merits of each case. In conclusion, he says:—"Having faith in the patriotism of the workmen and the real Liberals amongst the middle-class of the borough, it is my intention to go to the poll in the hope of winning back to the Liberal party the seat lost at the last election."

NOTTINGHAM.—Mr. W. E Denison, the senior member for this borough, will contest the northern division of the county at the general election, but Mr. Isaac, the other Conservative member, will stand again. Lieut.-Colonel Seeley will probably stand in the Liberal interest, and amongst other likely Liberal candidates are Mr. Laycock, of Wiseton Hall, the Hon. Auberon Herbert, and Mr. Arnold Morley, son of Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P.

MANCHESTER.—The secretary to the Manchester Liberal Association has received Mr. Gladstone's reply to the invitation of the council that he should be one of their candidates at the next election. Mr. Gladstone states that in declining such conspicuous kindness on their part, and in accepting the flattering invitation from Midlothian, he seeks solely to promote a public cause, and has acted under the most competent advice, and feels confident that his having done so will not in their view be disapproved by the constituency of Manchester.

Epitome of News.

On Sunday the Queen, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, with the Grand Duke of Hesse and the Royal children, attended Divine service at Osborne. The Rev. Canon Farrar officiated.

The Duke of Connaught was presented on Saturday afternoon with an elaborate centre table-piece, on the occasion of his approaching marriage, by the colonel and officers of the London Irish Rifles, of which corps he has been hon. colonel for eight years.

The Duke of Cambridge, who has been spending the week with the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham, returned to Gloucester House on Saturday.

The Princess Frederica of Hanover has arrived in England, and will spend some weeks with the Duchess of Cambridge.

The Reform Club banquet to Lord Dufferin has been definitely fixed for Saturday, the 22nd inst. Lord Granville and Lord Hartington have intimated their intention to be present.

The Queen has conferred a pension of 300*l.* a year on the widow of Lieut.-Colonel Home, C.B., R.E., recently deceased.

Earl and Countess Granville are on a visit to the Earl and Countess Spencer at Althorpe Hall, Northampton.

As Parliament was only adjourned before the Christmas holidays there will be no Queen's Speech when the session reopens to-morrow week, the 13th inst. It is stated that in the Lords the Earl of Beaconsfield, and in the Commons the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will explain the policy of the Government, and announce the bills which they intend to proceed with during the session.

At a meeting of delegates of the cotton operatives from nearly all the Lancashire towns, held at Blackburn on Saturday, it was resolved to resist all further wages reductions to the last extremity.

About ten thousand men engaged in the docks at Liverpool turned out on strike on Saturday. They include engineers, boiler-makers, fitters, and dock labourers.

The toleration manifested for some years past by the wealthy residents at Blackheath, Lee, and Charlton towards burglars and highwaymen has at length been exhausted by the appearance within the last few weeks on Charles Peace's vacated

ground of another lawless ruffian, who promises to eclipse the achievements of the notorious convict. Within a comparatively few days twelve burglaries have been committed about Blackheath and Charlton, and the vendors of revolvers are doing a brisk trade by supplying firearms to the inhabitants. The new burglar has already been fired at several times. In these burglaries ladies have been the greatest sufferers.

The Glasgow Theatre Royal, which was built in 1867, at a cost of 30,000*l.*, was destroyed by fire early on Sunday morning, the last performance of the season's pantomime having taken place in it on the night previous.

Another ice fatality occurred on Lake Windermere on Friday, Captain Francis Broadrick, late of the Royal Navy, and a resident, being drowned while skating across to dine with a relative on the other side.

The widow of Mr. Charles Knight died at Addlestone on Wednesday night. She had nearly completed her eighty-eighth year. Mr. Charles Knight died in March, 1873.

The new West of England Bank was opened at Bristol on Saturday on the premises of the old concern, and a good number of new accounts were begun, many of them being from customers of the collapsed bank.

On Saturday afternoon a large number of people assembled at the Mildmay-park Conference Hall to hear an oration on temperance by Mr. John B. Gough, the American advocate, under the auspices of the National Temperance League. The chairman, Mr. Mathieson, however, created much regret and disappointment by announcing that Mr. Gough had been overtaken by a serious attack of bronchitis, and that his medical attendant, Dr. Moore, had strictly forbidden his attempting to speak in public, though it was Mr. Gough's earnest desire to be permitted to at least appear and say a few words to his many friends and admirers.

Mr. Francis Fry, uncle of Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., has announced his intention to give up to the city of Bristol, for public use, some land, with fine avenues of trees, of the value of between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.*

A bill has been drafted for presentation to Parliament, and will probably be introduced in the coming session, the object of which is to restrict during a limited time the granting of new licences and certificates for the sale of intoxicating liquors by retail. Mr. Burt, of Morpeth, has been asked to take charge of the bill, and Sir Wilfrid Lawson has expressed his approval of the measure.

At the weekly meeting of the School Board for London on Wednesday, a report from the Industrial Schools Committee, asking authority to expend, in addition to 30,000*l.* already voted, 2,000*l.* for the purchase and equipment of the Shaftesbury and its tender, gave rise to a long discussion. Amendments inviting the board to postpone the consideration of the matter till after the report of a committee of inquiry that has been appointed was presented were unsuccessfully proposed. Ultimately the report of the committee was agreed to.

The *Glasgow Herald* says the present month has seen no fewer than fifty-six bankruptcy examinations in Glasgow alone. Meetings of creditors are, of course, of daily occurrence, and many failures are not heard of except by those directly interested.

The *Athenæum* understands that there is really a prospect of Christ's Hospital being moved before very long from its present site, which from its central position is said to be worth 600,000*l.* To erect new buildings would, it is supposed, cost one-third of that sum, leaving the balance free to still further increase the ample revenue of this institution. This will permit an addition to the number of scholars, and there is some likelihood that the benefits of the endowment will be extended to girls as well as boys.

Mr. Lowe, in distributing the prizes at the Croydon School of Art on Friday evening, said he was of opinion that elementary instruction in art was as necessary and desirable in a system of education as a knowledge of reading and writing. In giving some general advice to the students, Mr. Lowe recommended the study of French and German in preference to that of the dead languages, and advised his audience not to read metaphysics, which was an absolute waste of time. He said that they had far better read one of Dickens's novels than any amount of metaphysics.

The advocates of temperance in Ireland have been encouraged by the success of the Sunday closing movement to begin a new agitation for the Saturday night closing of public-houses. During the struggle upon the former measure many of their opponents used the argument that it was not on Sunday but on Saturday night that drunkenness was most prevalent, and that if they had aimed at shutting up the public-houses then instead of on Sunday, they would have been supported more generally by the public. They have taken the objectors at their word, and having formed a new Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance, they have set about the task with great vigour, and are organising means for bringing pressure to bear upon Irish representatives in Parliament.

The *Morning Post* states that one of the principal reasons which determined the men who were recently on strike in the Warrington iron trade to give in was the action of Mr. Peter Rylands, who, at his own expense, sent over three of the strikers (wire-drawers) to Germany to find out the condition of the trade there. These men, on returning home, reported that they had found that while wages were less than in England, the hours of labour were three hours a day longer. This discovery had a great influence in inducing the strikers to yield.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr has given an important decision in the City of London Court. An action was brought against the South-Eastern Railway Company to recover two shillings for expenses incurred in consequence of the company's trains being late on two occasions, and it was pleaded for the company that the mornings in question were foggy, and that the trains were late in consequence. This was denied by the plaintiff, and the learned Commissioner said that he should hold that even if the weather was foggy the delay was excessive. He found in favour of the plaintiff for the amount claimed, with costs.

At the Great Eastern Railway meeting on Friday the chairman lamented that the cattle traffic between this country and Belgium and Holland had been almost destroyed in consequence of the action of the Privy Council.

On Thursday the minimum rate of discount at the Bank of England was reduced from 4 to 3 per cent.

The freedom of the City of London is to be presented to Sir Rowland Hill, in acknowledgment of the great social and commercial benefits this country has derived from the adoption, in 1840, of his system of uniform penny postage.

The scheme for providing at Oxford a higher education for women has been making considerable advances towards realisation. A committee, consisting of ladies and gentlemen in equal proportions, has been elected for carrying it out. The theological question, which was the subject of a very warm controversy, has been solved by the proposed establishment of two boarding-houses. One of these, under the control of Miss Wordsworth, daughter of the Bishop of Lincoln, is to be conducted on Church principles; the other, for which a guarantee fund is being at present raised, will be of a liberal character. It will be, of course, possible for young women to lodge in private establishments, and have the benefits of the educational institution, which will itself be of an unsectarian character.

Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., informed a Bradford audience on Saturday night that it is his intention to vote for Sir Wilfrid Lawson's motion in favour of entrusting to localities the power of restricting the issue and renewal of licences. This, the right hon. gentleman pointed out, is quite different from prohibition as sought by the Permissive Bill, which he had never been able to support. He looked forward to local control such as that contemplated by the resolution as being almost the only direction in which the law can do anything towards checking the tremendous evil of drunkenness. It was stated by one of the speakers at the meeting that Mr. John Bright had also promised to support the motion.

Sir Coutts Lindsay presided on Saturday over a numerously-attended meeting at the Grosvenor Gallery, at which the question of artistic copyright was fully discussed, and resolutions were passed recognising the value of many of the recommendations in the report of the Royal Commission, but expressing an opinion that, in regard to its main provisions, the interest of the public could be as adequately secured by means less injurious to the interests of art.

The price of wheat is 13s. 7d. less than it was this time last year.

The special fund for the relief of distress in Manchester has reached the sum of 21,054*l.*

A mass meeting of the men affected by the proposed reduction of wages in the London engineering trade was held on Saturday in Deptford, at which resolutions were passed declaring that the employers' plea for a reduction was unjustifiable, and that the workmen are determined to resist it to the utmost of their power.

Bad reports of the effects of the severe weather on the salmon fisheries in the north of Scotland have been received. Dead salmon have been picked up in pools of tributaries of the Dee near Braemar, and great deposits of ova have been swept away by the action of the ice on the sand beds.

The subscriptions towards the restoration of the Birmingham Library now amount to 13,000*l.*, or 3,000*l.* in excess of the amount originally asked.

It is announced that a petition for liquidation was presented in the London Bankruptcy Court, on Saturday, on behalf of Mr. Albert Grant, of 91, Victoria-street, Westminster, and Aldwick Place, Pagham. The debts amount to 681,993*l.*

Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., was present at the opening of a Working Men's Club at Halifax on Saturday, and expressed satisfaction that the club was to be open to both sexes. The time had come to throw overboard old conventionalisms on this subject, and he did not see why people of both sexes should not enjoy together the advantages of such an institution.

Mr. James Howard, formerly M.P. for Bedford, slipped on the pavement on Saturday and broke his leg. He is laid up at the Midland Hotel, St. Pancras.

A serious outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia has occurred amongst a herd of twenty-one cows at Hull. Three have already been slaughtered, and at a meeting of the Cattle Plague Committee on Monday it was reported that three more were also ordered to be killed. The remainder of the animals have been isolated, but it is feared that all will have to be destroyed.

A new coffee-tavern was opened at Greenwich on Saturday. The Bishop of Rochester presided on the occasion, and remarked that he often thought it was unjust to working men to say that they went to the public-house simply to "guzzle." They merely went there to see and talk with each other. He thought that these coffee taverns which were being established all over the country might be the means of inducing the proprietors of public-houses to sell cocoa, coffee, and other light beverages, and another thing might come out of it, and for which he had long hoped, that at the refreshment buffets at the railway stations they might be able to get a cup of coffee for something more reasonable than sixpence. He had himself been an abstainer for two years, and found he could do more work without the drink than with it.

Prince Bismarck's protectionist tariff will include, it is now stated, a duty upon English coal. The German coalowners have long clamoured for such a measure, which is to secure them the sole command of the home market; and it is said that their agitation has met with success in high quarters. The Government will, it is reported, propose an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent.

The *Monday Review* of Vienna states that a treaty has just been concluded between Germany and Austria-Hungary, by which the latter renounces its right to enforce Clause 5 of the Treaty of Prague, which provides for the retrocession of North Sleswick to Denmark conditionally upon a popular vote being given to that effect.

There are reports from Vienna and Copenhagen that the purchase of Heligoland by Prussia is believed to be imminent. An Austrian despatch states that a decree respecting the purchase is under consideration at Berlin, and a Danish paper (the *Dagblatt*) states that the amount of the purchase money is now under deliberation. Such reports are frequent, and always denied.

A *Daily News* telegram from Alexandria states that the payments into the Treasury to the end of January for the Unified Loan amount to nearly 600,000*l.* An official decree will be published this week announcing the payment of the first instalment of 25 per cent. of the floating debt.

According to the Governor-General of Eastern Siberia, Prof. Nordenskjöld's vessel, the Vega, is icebound forty miles from East Cape. Expeditions have been organised to communicate with the voyagers by journeying over the ice. There is a large native village near the coast off which the Vega is lying, and the nearest post of European merchants is about 200 miles from the village; so that relief has probably reached the explorers by this time.

Another drought, following close upon those which have had such terrible consequences in Madras and Bombay, and in Bengal, naturally gives rise to anxiety and apprehension. From Calcutta it is telegraphed that the official weather and crop reports for the week ending on Tuesday last state that rain is much wanted in almost every district throughout the North-West Provinces, Oude, and the Punjaub. It is added, happily, that extensive injury to the spring crop is not yet to be feared. But if the rains do not come soon injury must follow.

News of a sad accident comes from Rangoon: Colonel Percy Wyndham, a gentleman well known in Calcutta and Rangoon, announced an ascent in a balloon of his own construction. After attaining a height of about 500ft. the balloon burst, and the unfortunate aeronaut fell into the Royal Lake, whence he was extricated quite dead.

A census of Japan was taken in September last. The population of the empire was found to be 34,331,404, and that of Tokio, the capital, 1,036,771.

The House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs has unanimously agreed to report to the United States Senate in favour of abrogating the fishery clauses of the Treaty of Washington at the earliest possible period.

A Philadelphia despatch states that Sitting Bull's whole force is now encamped on United States territory, and that the Government will require all the Indians to surrender unconditionally as prisoners of war or go back to Canada.

The New York papers contain accounts from all parts of the Northern States, describing the weather as intensely cold, and railway traffic as entirely suspended on several lines. The cases of persons frozen to death in the city streets and on country roads are very numerous. Parties of railway travellers had been snowed up for days in small wayside stations.

On the occasion of turning the first sod of the Thames-Waikato Railway, Sir George Grey, the New Zealand Premier, announced the intention of the Government to introduce a reform bill next session, abolishing pocket boroughs and plural voting, and establishing triennial Parliaments. Pocket boroughs in New Zealand! What next?

Miscellaneous.

KIDNAPPING IN TURKEY.—A further correspondence between the Foreign Office and Messrs. Sturge and Chesson relative to the Christian children and young women detained in Mussulman houses in Turkey, has been published. The latter, whilst acknowledging the steps taken by Sir Henry Layard to secure the release of the captives, draw attention to the case of a Greek gentleman, relied upon to assist the British Ambassador at Constantinople in his inquiries, who had been compelled to seek a refuge in Philippopolis, and a safe conduct from the embassy is requested for him. Messrs. Sturge and Chesson also state, on other information, that both Safvet Pasha and Edhem Pasha had Bulgarian girls in their houses, and that 130 other cases had been dealt with by the Bulgarian Exarch.

Lord Tenterden replies that Sir H. Layard reports that the Turkish authorities have issued warnings to all who may have Greek children in their houses.

CREMATION.—A deputation of the inhabitants of Woking, headed by the Hon. Francis Scott, waited on Friday upon the Home Secretary to ask the aid of the Government against the contemplated establishment of cremation at Woking Cemetery. Mr. Cross said that, as a matter of general public policy, there were several questions that would have to be raised before the Government would allow cremation to be introduced in this country; but, irrespective of that, there was the question whether the Woking scheme would not practically be a public nuisance. That was a question for the inhabitants, which they could try by law, and it was not for the Government to interfere in it. Mr. Cross concluded by saying that the matter ought to be discussed in Parliament, and he had a letter already written, which he was prepared to send if the deputation would let him know to whom and where to send it.

NEARLY BURIED ALIVE.—There died last week at 25, Rue Trezel, Paris, a lady whose decease was duly and legally attested. The funeral was fixed for Sunday afternoon, and when the hour arrived the undertaker made his appearance, and was placing the body in the coffin, when suddenly one of his assistants exclaimed that it was warm. At the same moment the lady moved; her eyes opened slowly and regarded with a stupefied expression those who were standing around. The police were immediately apprised of the strange occurrence, and several doctors hurried to the spot, hastily summoned. The lady was really alive; but the saddest part of the story is that she was only temporarily snatched from the grave, and actually expired at the end of a few hours. The funeral, after all, was only postponed for a day, and took place on Monday morning, in presence of the police.

THE SEVERE WINTER.—Mr. J. H. Steward, of 406, Strand, has published a table comparing the minimum temperature in London of the past two months with the corresponding periods in the years 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1878. From this it appears that the last two months have been exceptionally severe, frost having occurred on forty-five days out of the sixty-two. The mean minimum temperature for the twenty-one days of frost in December was 27 deg., the coldest night being Christmas Eve, when the thermometer registered 11 deg. of frost. The last four days of December were remarkable for a great and sudden rise in the temperature, the mean minimum of these days being 42 deg. All the above observations apply to the temperature registered at 406, Strand. The cold in the suburbs has been much more intense; for Mr. Steward's residence, in the Eltham-road, Lee, on January 10, he registered 21 deg. of frost; and the mean of the minimum temperature of the nine coldest days in January was 14 deg. below freezing.

A MAIL OVERTAKEN BY AN AVALANCHE.—The correspondent of the *Times* at Geneva sends the following particulars of an accident on the Gothard:—"The Gothard post, consisting of several sledges, carrying a heavy mail and many passengers, left Lucerne for Airolo and Biasca at five o'clock on Friday morning. The weather was bad and their progress slow, so that it was nearly one o'clock when they had reached Andermatt, and nearly four when they passed the Hospice. Nevertheless, the conductor, Patocchi, did not despair of being in time for the train at Biasca, when just as they came to the bend of the road between the Hospice and the refuge-house of San Giuseppe, a sound, the meaning of which could not be mistaken, fell on his ear. Looking upward through the semi-darkness, he saw in swift descent down the deep slope above them a mighty avalanche. For Patocchi to blow a shrill blast of alarm for the leading postillions to pull up their horses and dismount, was but the work of an instant. The others did the same; all ran backwards, leaving the sledges where they stood. The next moment the huge mass thundered across the road, and vehicles, horses, postilions, and passengers were all in one white burial blent. Fortunately, however, they did not receive the full force of the avalanche; Patocchi and a few others managed to extricate themselves. They helped their companions out; the saved joined the band of rescuers, and by dint of hard work all were at last got out alive. None had suffered serious injury, and only the horses of the first sledge were killed; but had they been a little further on the road, or had Patocchi been a little less prompt in giving the alarm, not a single individual probably would have escaped to tell the tale.

DEAN STANLEY ON MILTON.—A lecture on Milton was delivered on Thursday night by the Dean of Westminster to the Young Men's Association, in the Independent Chapel, James-street, Westminster. The pastor, the Rev. Henry Simon, presided. There was a very large attendance. The dean, who was cordially welcomed, said he came to deliver the lecture in fulfilment of a promise made to the late lamented pastor of the chapel (the Rev. S. Martin). He had chosen this subject for two reasons—one on account of the place, and the other on account of the day. On account of the place because Milton was not only an Englishman, but, above all other poets, was a Londoner; and not only a Londoner, but the house in which he had spent many eventful years of his life was close to the building in which they were now assembled. The house, he was sorry to say, existed no longer, but he believed the garden remained—it was No. 20, York-street. Milton's two works "Paradise Lost," and "Paradise Regained," said the dean, covered the whole of English theology from top to bottom. It was surprising, if they came to analyse their own thoughts and reflections about the creation of the world, the fall of the angels, the entrance of sin and death into the world, how very much our thoughts, actions, and words on those subjects were drawn not from the Bible, but from Milton. This was worth considering on many accounts. What was more important was the number of passages in these works which thrust into our minds much of religious truths which, when once heard, were never forgotten. The dean also pointed to the complete absence from Milton's works of anything in the least savouring of sensuality—a very remarkable thing when the literature of that and the succeeding reign was taken into consideration. In conclusion, the dean recited various passages from those poems illustrative of the sublime conception pervading the whole, and predicted that they would be honoured as long as the English language was spoken.

LORD HARTINGTON IN EDINBURGH.—The Marquis of Hartington on Friday delivered his installation address as Lord Rector of Edinburgh University. It was to have been given in the early part of December, but had to be postponed in consequence of the autumn session of Parliament. The Marquis was well received. In the course of his address he adverted to the large share which the people of Great Britain exercised in the government of the world, as evidenced by recent events, and, whilst admitting that the vastness of that share excited in different minds different emotions, he said no one could doubt that it was the duty of a courageous and intelligent people to look boldly in the face the extent and nature of their responsibilities, together with the means at their disposal for undertaking them. He discussed the effect upon English politics exercised in a past generation by the Scottish Universities, and traced to them, and the principles they established, the political and commercial freedom of the present day. Touching upon current politics, he asked what would be the feelings and reflections of the early political reformers in Scotland, if they could learn that now, in the latter days of the nineteenth century, doubts were openly expressed as to the merits of representative and party government? The future, it seemed to him, might have in store for us issues to be decided not less momentous than any that have had to be decided by our forefathers. He held it to be every one's duty to prepare himself, by a right understanding of the lessons of history, to endeavour to form those opinions upon which he would be able to base a just decision should he ever be called upon to choose between institutions which he had inherited from his ancestors, and others which they had tried and found wanting. In the course of the day the Lord Rector intimated his intention of following the example of his two predecessors in office in offering a prize for some historical subjects. His lordship left Edinburgh on Saturday.

AMERICAN CALUMNY AGAINST MR. SPURGEON.—Several weeks ago we received a letter from "A Total Abstainer" protesting against a speech made by the Hon. Neal Dow, of Maine, in which there was a vile and reckless slander upon Mr. Spurgeon, who was spoken of as a "famous London preacher who goes every year to the South of France" because of the gout, which, Mr. Dow said, was due to Mr. Spurgeon's intemperate habits. We declined to insert the vindication offered by our correspondent as totally unnecessary. The matter has, however, got into the newspapers, which have been publishing the following letter from Mr. Spurgeon to a friend in America, a copy of which has been, since the 10th of January, in our possession to be used or not as circumstances might require.

Nightingale-lane, Balham, Surrey,
January 9, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Dow has been very much misled to charge me as he has done, for I am especially clear from anything which might excite his suspicion. We do not keep either beer or wine or spirits in the house—there may be a little brandy for medicinal purposes, but upon that I am not clear. All the members of my household, and even the outdoor servants, are all teetotallers, and I am myself practically so. It humbles one to have to answer to such a daring lie; those who see me from day to day, who are at my table, or at whose tables I have been, are the best witnesses, and I can appeal to them all. I am neither a gluttonous man nor a wine-bibber, nor an enemy of Mr. Dow; but because I often suffer from rheumatic gout it is cruelly charged upon me that I must be guilty of excess. Mr. Dow's story was current in this country more than twenty years ago, and it is remarkable that even malice has not been able to invent another.

Yours truly,
(Signed) C. H. SPURGEON.

In another letter upon the subject, Mr. Spurgeon says:—"Beer or wine I never touch, and I never thought, much less said, that I could not keep up to my work without brandy and beer. I do not believe that these or any other stimulants are a help to any man." The *National Baptist*, of Philadelphia, inserts a letter in contradiction of the charge, adding, "Assuredly Mr. Dow will be compelled to prove his statements, or to rest under the imputation of having told a wanton, malicious, and inexcusable falsehood."

ODDS AND ENDS FROM AMERICA.—The annual export trade of the United States amounts to a value of about 656,000,000dols, or 131,200,000*l*. Towards this large amount raw cotton, wheat, tobacco, live stock, provisions, and dairy produce contribute the largest share; but the export trade of America includes many curious items which go to show the resources of the country and the energy of American producers in finding markets for their goods. Regular exports of plum-pudding, for instance, are made, and the business of making and canning, of preserving in tins, both plum-puddings and mincemeat for export to Europe is carried on at Dover (Delaware), Philadelphia, and other places. American confectionery is also regularly sent to South America and the West Indies. Toys are also a considerable item in the export lists of the States—France and Germany being the principal customers, though large quantities are bought up by English houses. The correspondence which lately appeared in the *Times* showed the extent to which American locks are used in this country. Among similar metal goods we find steel pens are manufactured in Essex (Massachusetts) for sale in England, while American egg whisks, nutmeg-graters, and other small household articles are in great demand. A Boston company turning out 8,000 cans, or 24,000lb., of baked beans and codfish balls daily, finds a large outlet for both articles in England, France, and South America. Steamship agents in New York say that "potatoes for Ireland are the commonest things in the world"; and oatmeal is frequently shipped to Glasgow. In Germany the clippings or refuse of the cigars made in America have recently found a market at from 2c. to 5c. per lb. Formerly these clippings were allowed to accumulate in the cigar manufactories for months, till a speculator happened to come across a heap, which he bought "for a song." Not content with selling their own refuse at a profit, manufacturers have established regular agencies in Canada to collect tobacco "waste," which is shipped in bulk to Germany.—*Times*.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

MACKNEY—HODDY.—Jan. 24, at the Congregational Chapel, Hadleigh, by the Rev. J. Foster Lepine, William Mackney, Supervisor of Inland Revenue, to Mary Jane, youngest daughter of Samuel Hoddy, late of the Green Farm, Woolpit.

BIRD—HICKS.—Jan. 30, at Burlington Chapel, Ipswich, by Rev. T. M. Morris, Edward, youngest son of Mr. Wm. Bird, 36, Fore-street, Ipswich, to Margaret, third daughter of the late Mr. J. W. Hicks.

MILLER—GOODWIN.—Feb. 1, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington, John T. Miller, of Algehr House, The Chase, Clapham-common, to Catherine Sarah (Kate), eldest daughter of Stephen Lushington Goodwin, of Lowestoft.

DEATHS.

BROWN.—Jan. 21, at Alexandra Crescent, Ilkley, Wharfedale, the Rev. John Sowden Brown, minister of the Congregational Church, Market Weighton, Yorkshire, and brother of the Rev. G. H. Brown, of Eccles, Manchester.

BURDER.—Jan. 30, at Park Dale, Batley, the Rev. Alfred Burder, M.A., second son of the Rev. Samuel Burder, D.D., for twenty-eight years Vicar of Oakley, Bishop's Stortford, in the 67th year of his age.

THROAT IRRITATION.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. Glycerine, in these agreeable confections, being in proximity to the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, becomes actively healing. Sold only in 6d. and 1s. boxes, labelled "JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." A letter received:—"Gentlemen—It may, perhaps, interest you to know that, after an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease. They soften and clear the voice. In no case can they do any harm.—Yours faithfully, GORDON HOLMES, L.R.C.P.E., Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary.

"HAMILTON TERRACE, MILFORD HAVEN. Nov., 1878.—Dear Sir,—Being troubled with a severe cough during a recent visit to London, I purchased a bottle of your "Balsam of Aniseed," and was thankful to find immediate and permanent relief.—I am, very faithfully yours, GEORGE THOMAS HORN, M.A., Oxford, Clerk in Holy Orders." POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANISEED, for coughs, bronchitis, influenza, colds, &c. The effect of one teaspoonful taken in a little water on going to bed is extraordinary. No family should be without it in the winter. Sold by chemists and medicine vendors throughout the world, at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. per bottle; a great saving in taking family bottles, 11s. each. Established over fifty years. Prepared only by Thos. Powell, Blackfriars-road, London.

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